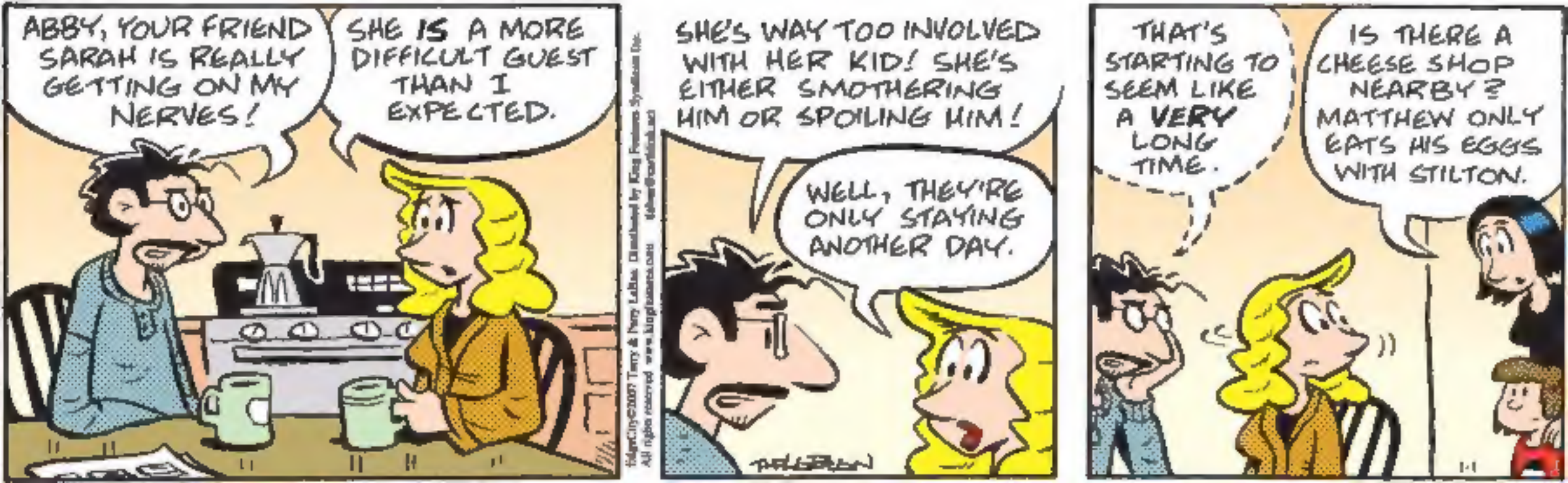
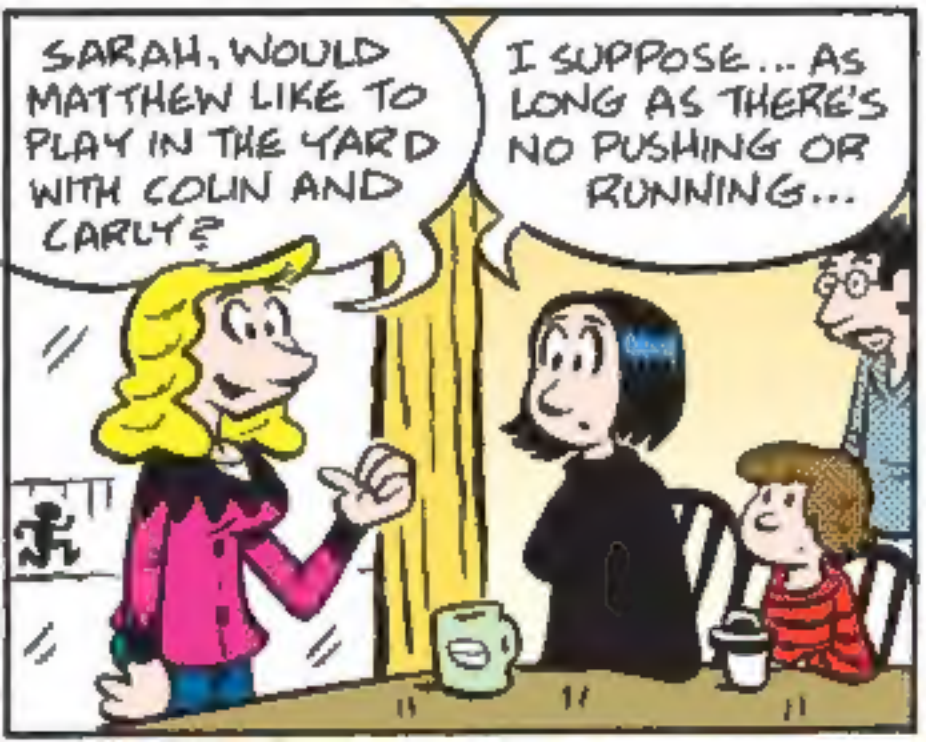

ABBY, YOUR FRIEND SARAH IS REALLY GETTING ON MY NERVES!
SHE IS A MORE DIFFICULT GUEST THAN I EXPECTED.
SHE'S WAY TOO INVOLVED WITH HER KID! SHE'S EITHER SMOTHERING HIM OR SPOILING HIM!
WELL, THEY'RE ONLY STAYING ANOTHER DAY.
THAT'S STARTING TO SEEM LIKE A VERY LONG TIME.
IS THERE A CHEESE SHOP NEARBY? MATTHEW ONLY EATS HIS EGGS WITH STILTON.



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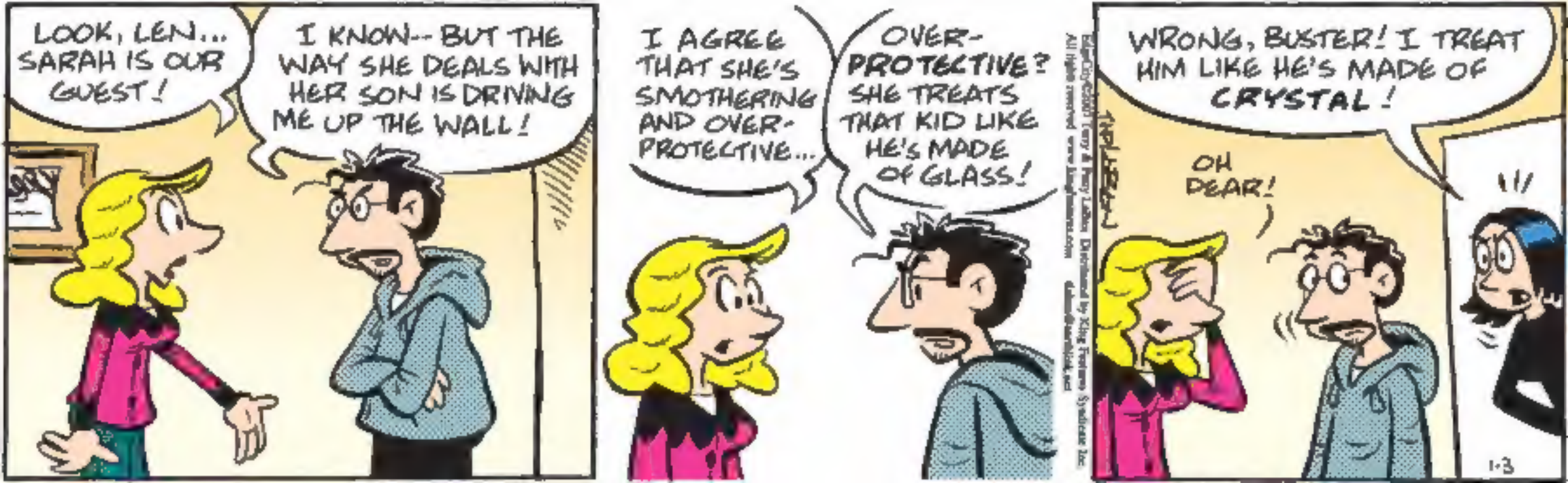
LOOK, LEN... SARAH IS OUR GUEST!
I KNOW-- BUT THE WAY SHE DEALS WITH HER SON IS DRIVING ME UP THE WALL!
I AGREE THAT SHE'S SMOTHERING AND OVER-PROTECTIVE...
OVER-PROTECTIVE? SHE TREATS THAT KID LIKE HE'S MADE OF GLASS!
WRONG, BUSTER! I TREAT HIM LIKE HE'S MADE OF CRYSTAL!
OH DEAR!
1-3

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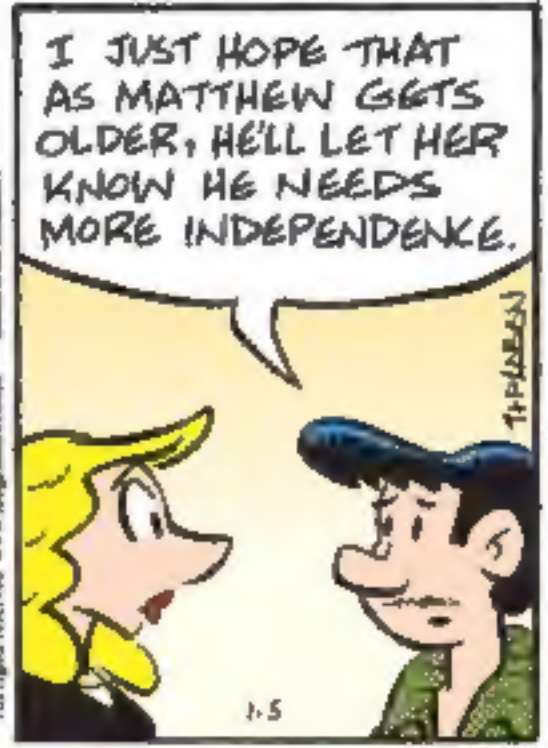
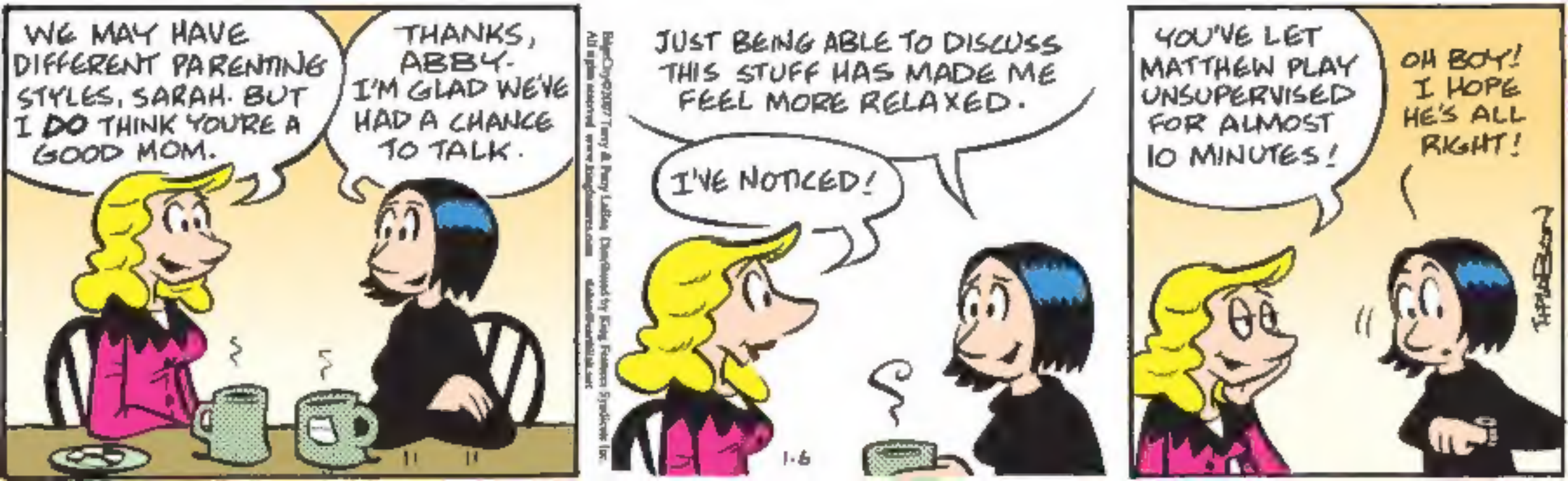
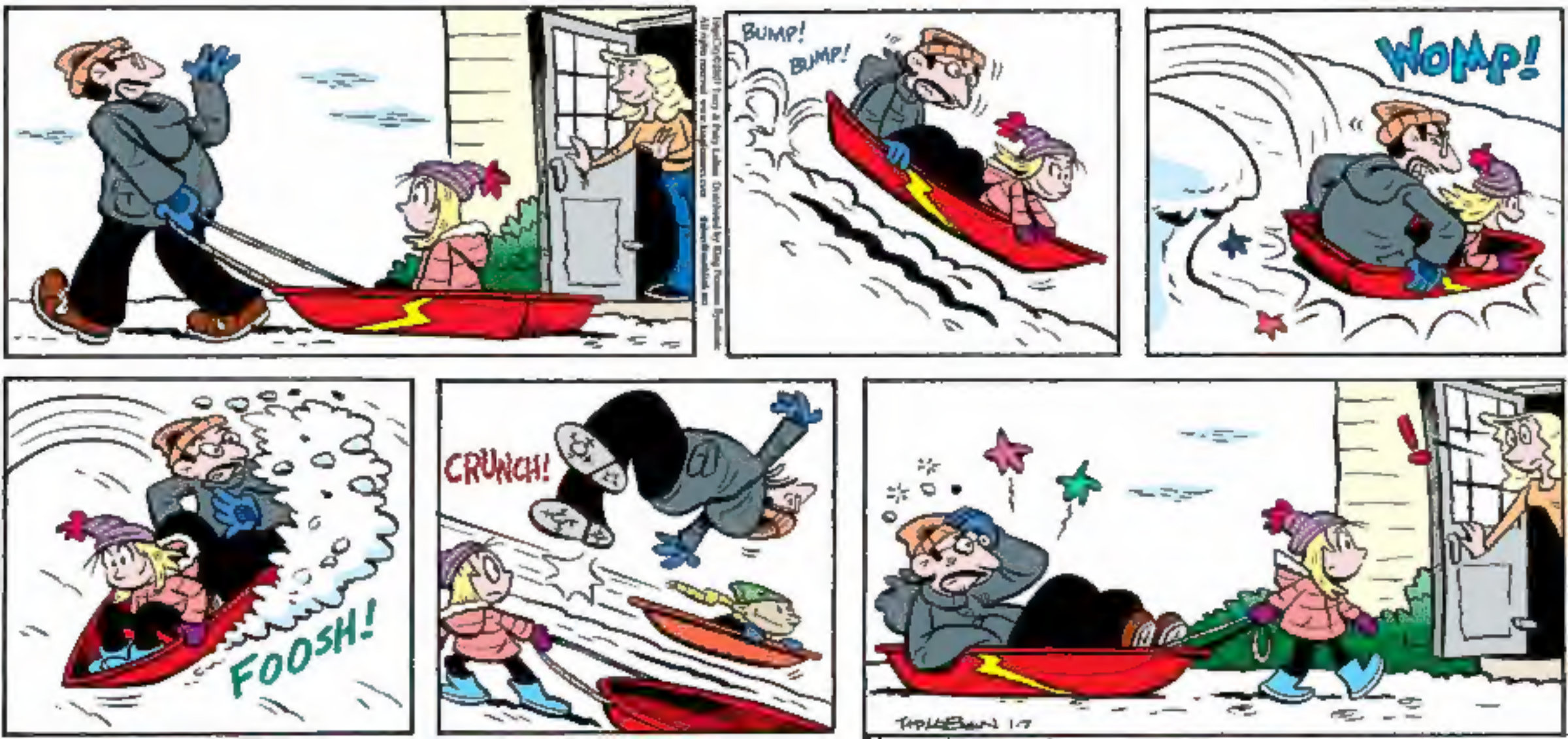



WE MAY HAVE DIFFERENT PARENTING STYLES, SARAH. BUT I DO THINK YOU'RE A GOOD MOM.
THANKS, ABBY. I'M GLAD WE'VE HAD A CHANCE TO TALK.
JUST BEING ABLE TO DISCUSS THIS STUFF HAS MADE ME FEEL MORE RELAXED.
I'VE NOTICED!
YOU'VE LET MATTHEW PLAY UNSUPERVISED FOR ALMOST 10 MINUTES!
OH BOY! I HOPE HE'S ALL RIGHT!


BUMP!
BUMP!
WOMP!
FOOSH!
CRUNCH!

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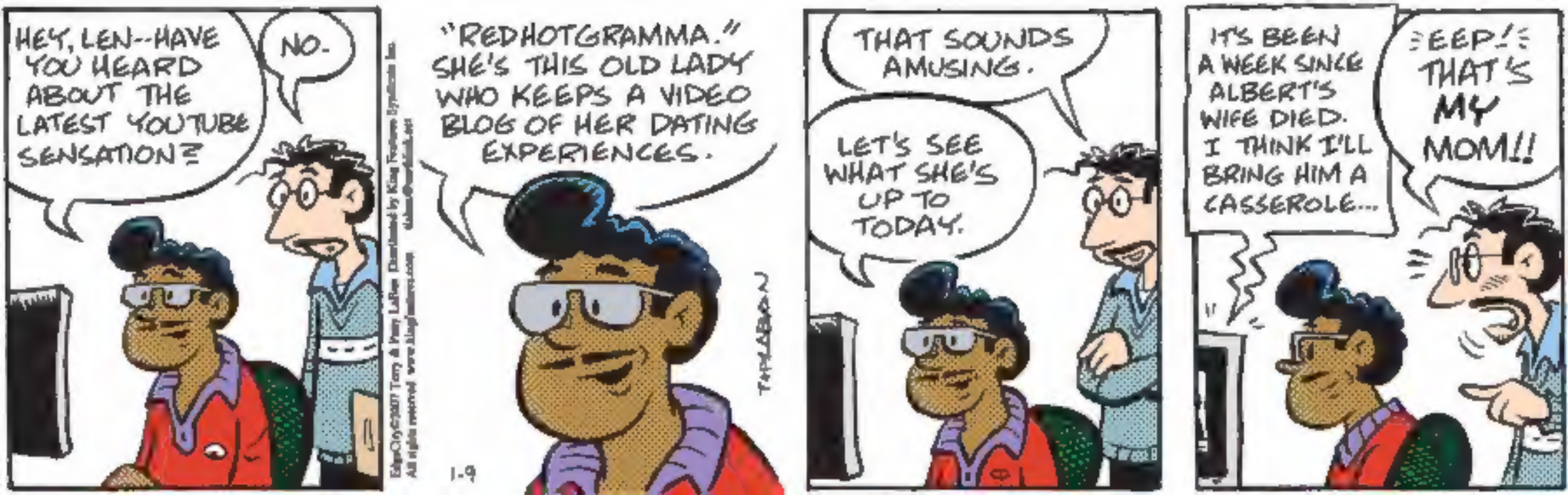

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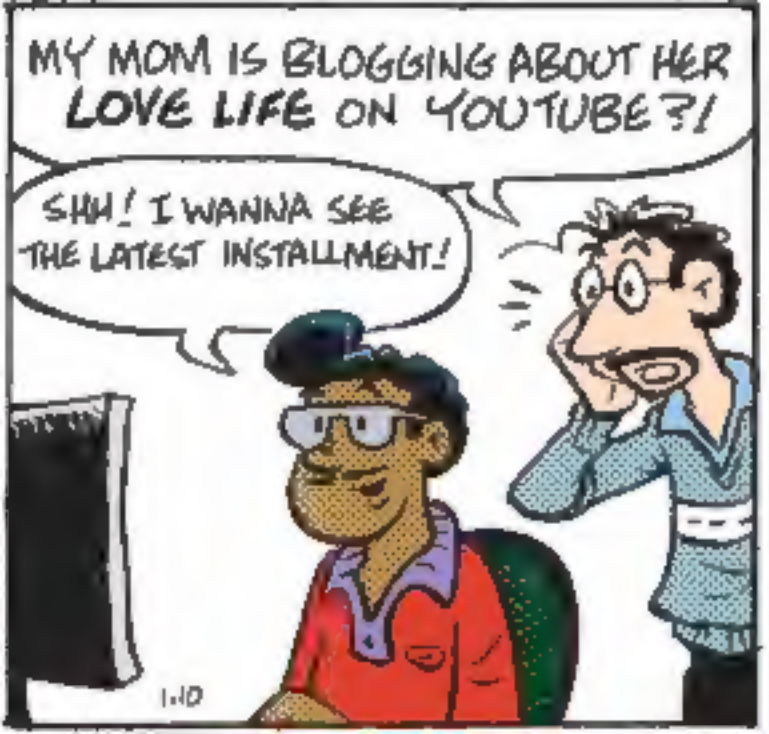

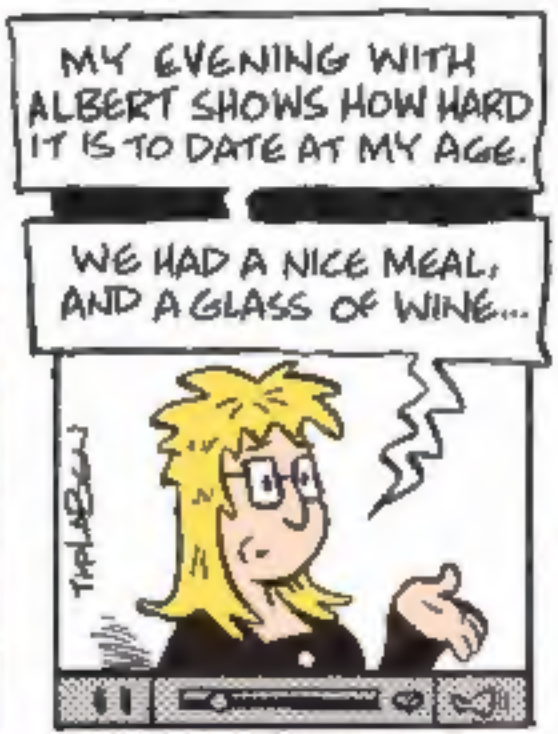

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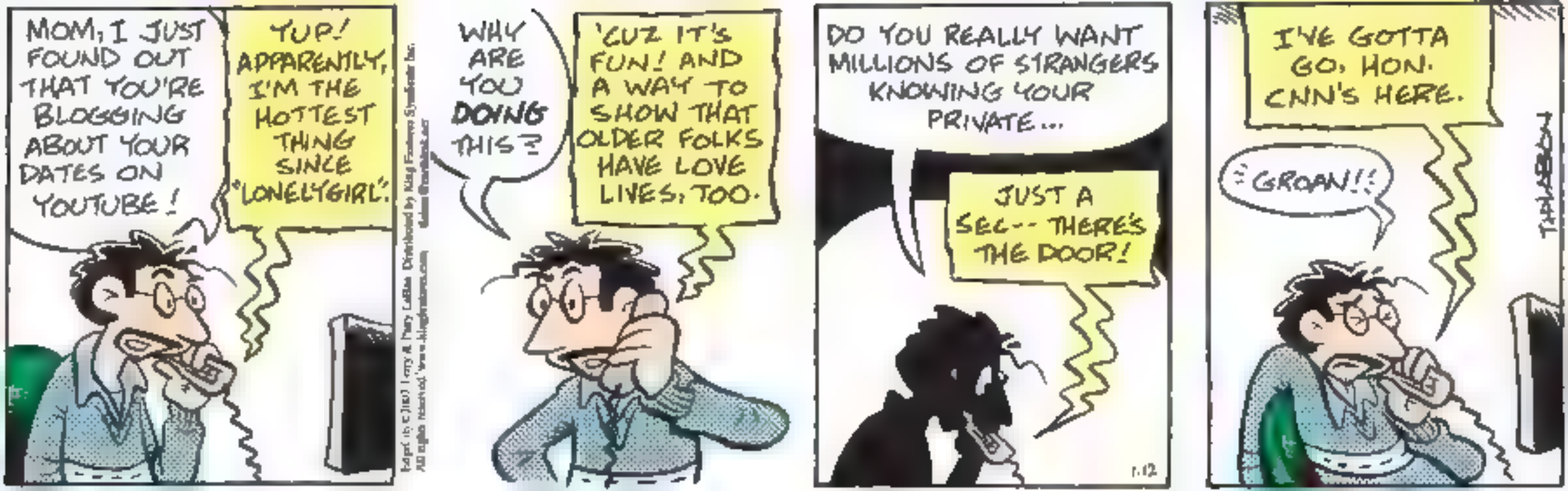
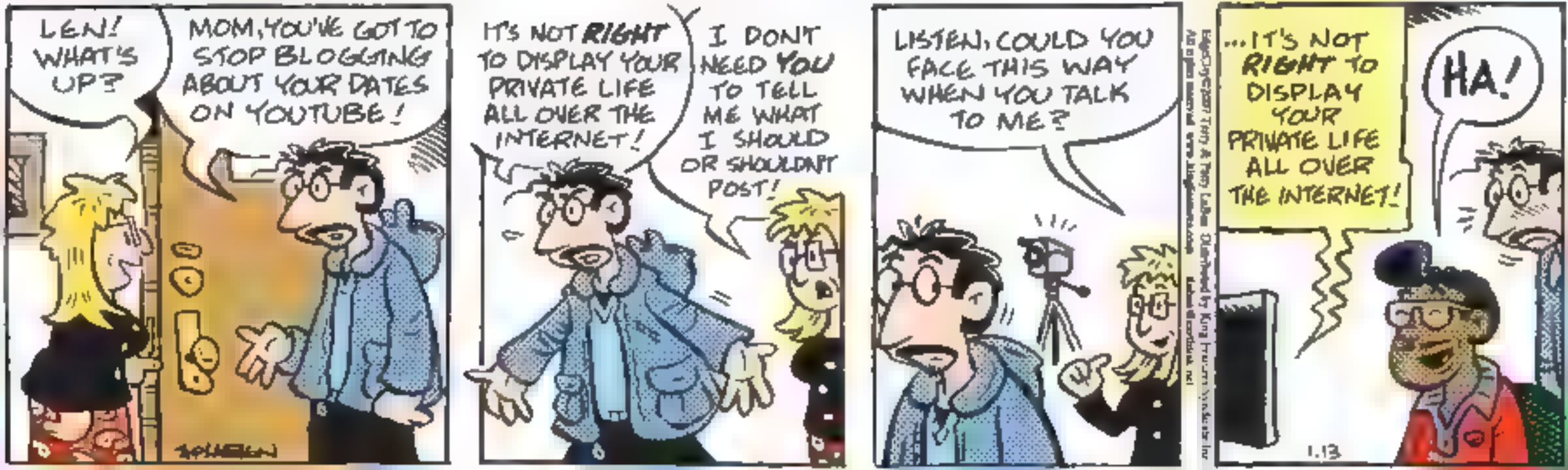
ABBY, I JUST FOUND OUT MY MOM'S A STAR ON YOUTUBE!
WHAT?!

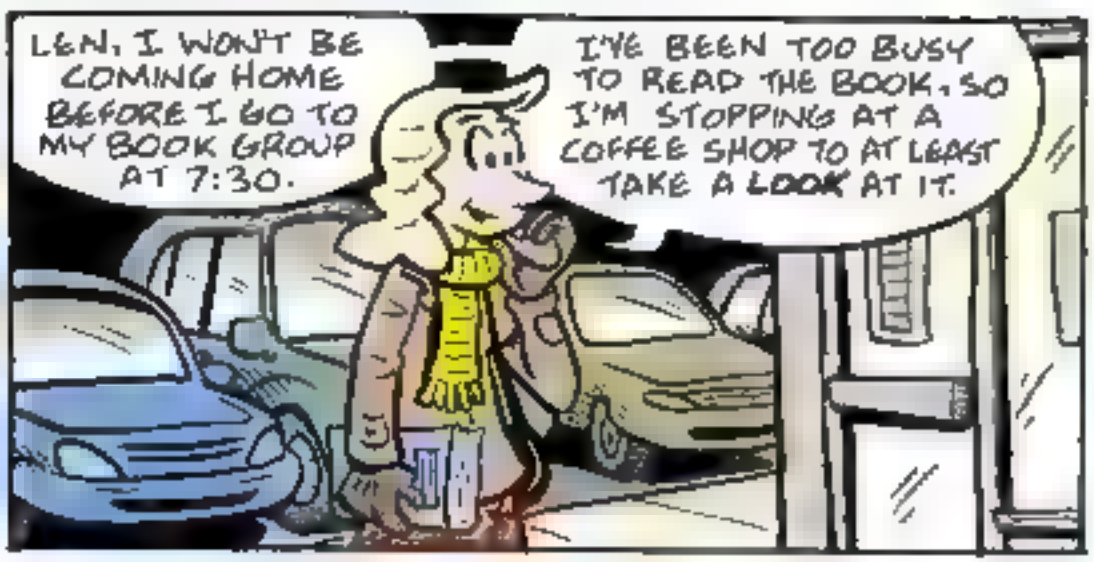
SHE CALLS HERSELF "REDHOTGRAMMA" AND POSTS BLOGS ABOUT HER LOVE LIFE! EVERYONE'S WATCHING IT!

CALM DOWN, LEN! I'VE NEVER HEARD OF "REDHOTGRAMMA."
YOU'RE KIDDING, ABBY! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!

HEH! THAT WAS THE RECEPTIONIST!
THIS IS SO BAD.

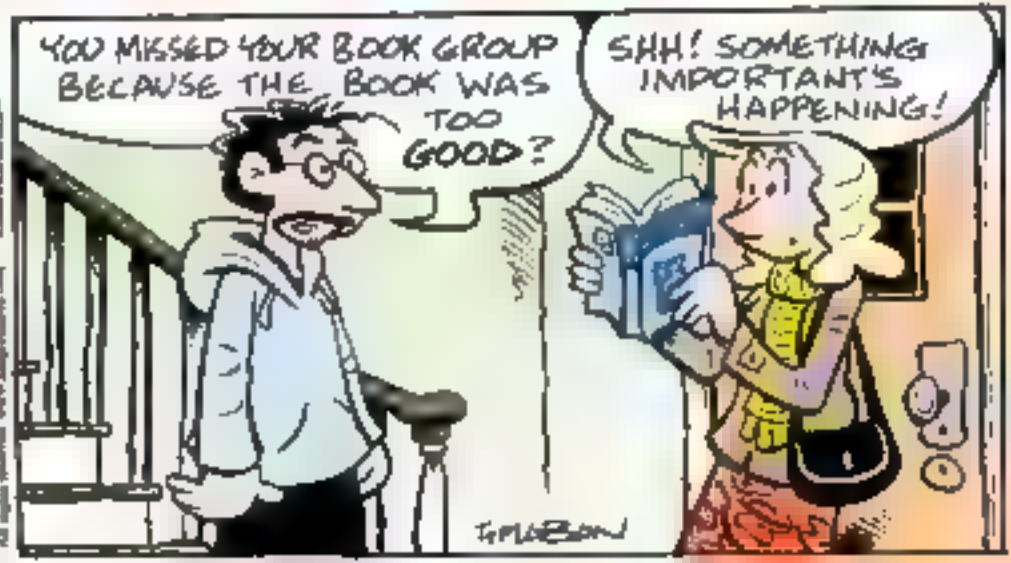

MOM, I JUST FOUND OUT THAT YOU'RE BLOGGING ABOUT YOUR DATES ON YOUTUBE!
YUP! APPARENTLY, I'M THE HOTTEST THING SINCE "LONELYGIRL".
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
'CUZ IT'S FUN! AND A WAY TO SHOW THAT OLDER FOLKS HAVE LOVE LIVES, TOO.
DO YOU REALLY WANT MILLIONS OF STRANGERS KNOWING YOUR PRIVATE...
JUST A SEC-- THERE'S THE DOOR!
I'VE GOTTA GO, HON. CNN'S HERE.
GROAN!!
THABEET

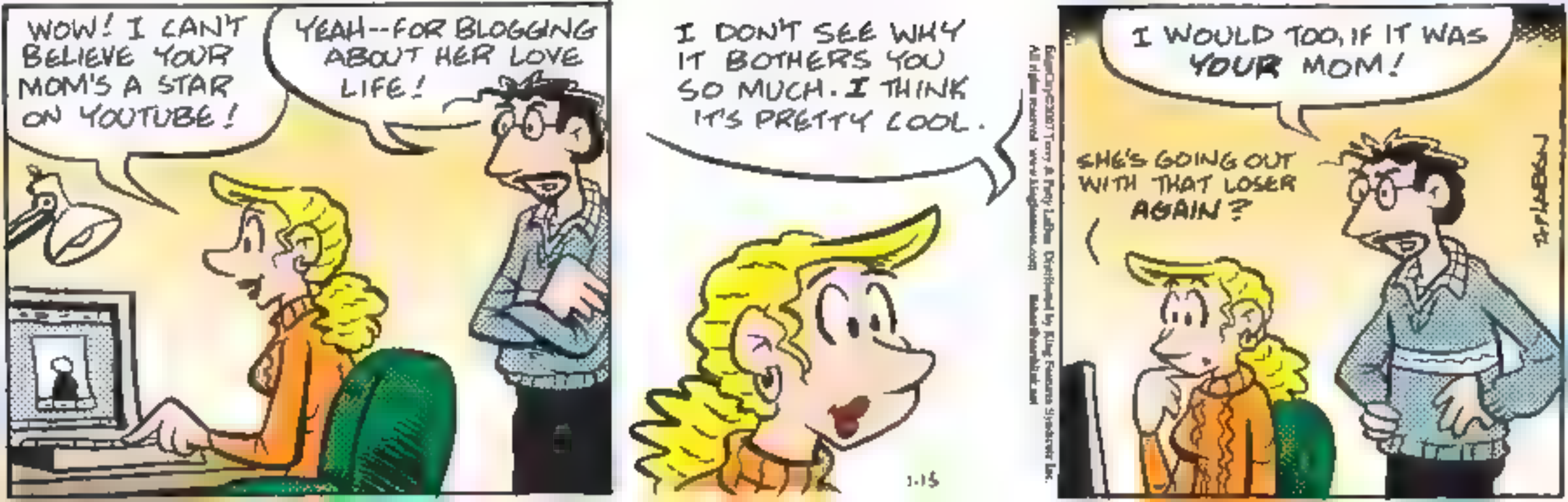

LEN! WHAT'S UP?
MOM, YOU'VE GOT TO STOP BLOGGING ABOUT YOUR DATES ON YOUTUBE!
IT'S NOT RIGHT TO DISPLAY YOUR PRIVATE LIFE ALL OVER THE INTERNET!
I DONT NEED YOU TO TELL ME WHAT I SHOULD OR SHOULDNT POST!
LISTEN, COULD YOU FACE THIS WAY WHEN YOU TALK TO ME?
...IT'S NOT RIGHT TO DISPLAY YOUR PRIVATE LIFE ALL OVER THE INTERNET!
HA!
1.13

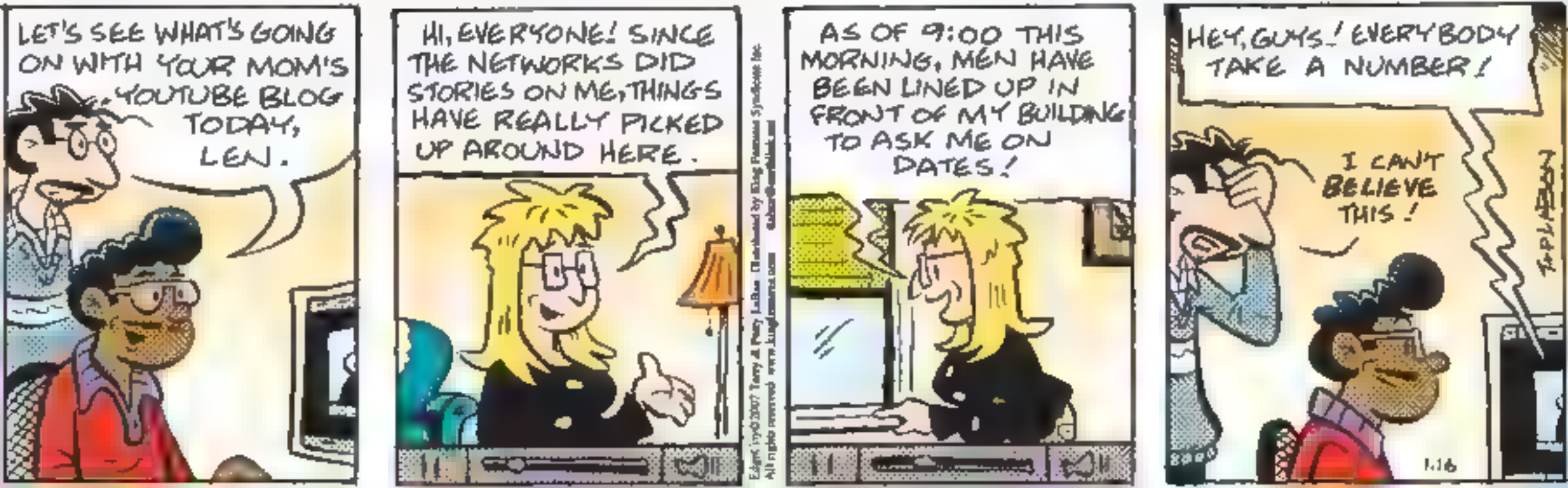

LEN, I WON'T BE COMING HOME BEFORE I GO TO MY BOOK GROUP AT 7:30.
I'VE BEEN TOO BUSY TO READ THE BOOK, SO I'M STOPPING AT A COFFEE SHOP TO AT LEAST TAKE A LOOK AT IT.

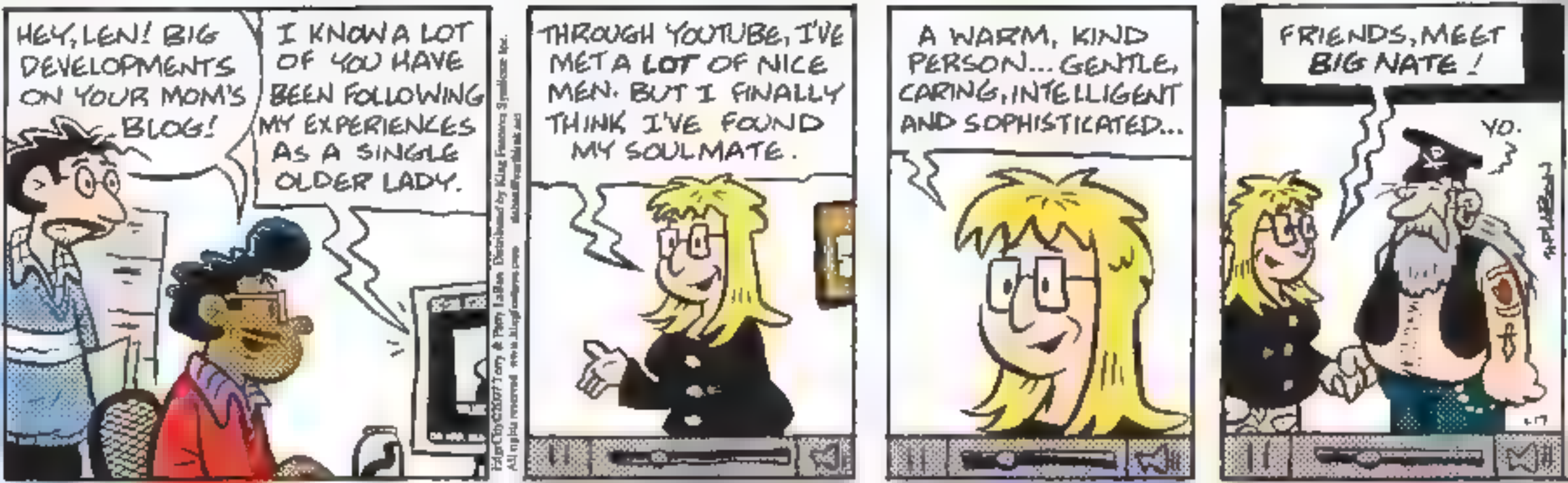
FLIP! FLIP!

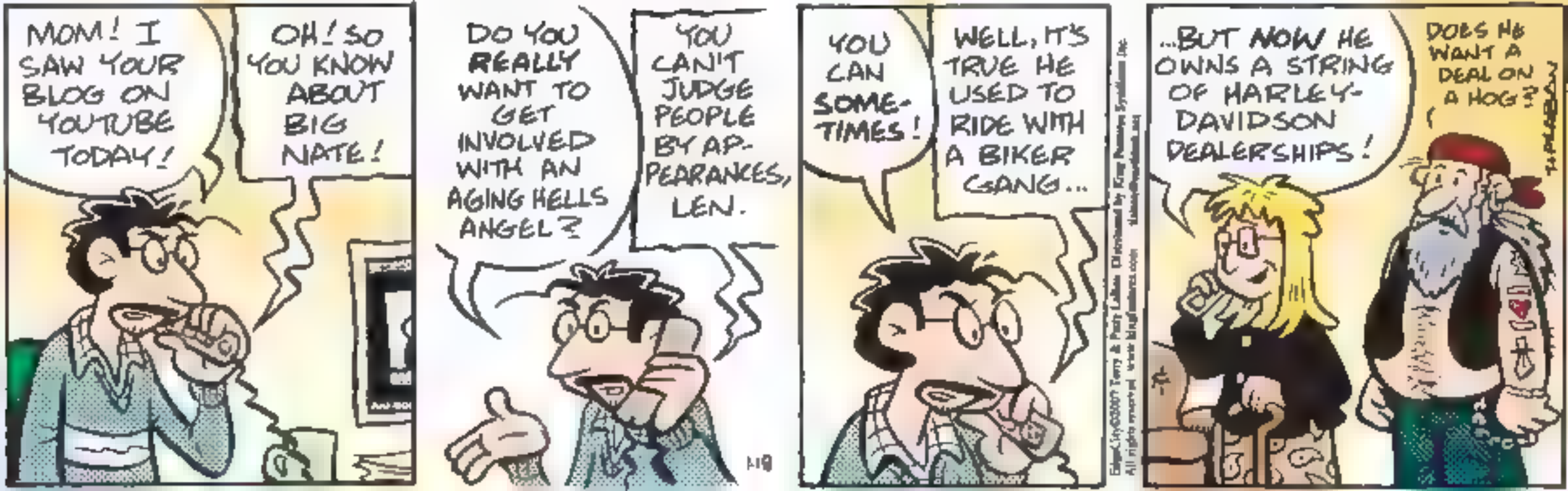
MA'AM, ARE YOU ALMOST DONE? IT'S 11:00 AND WE'RE CLOSING.
!

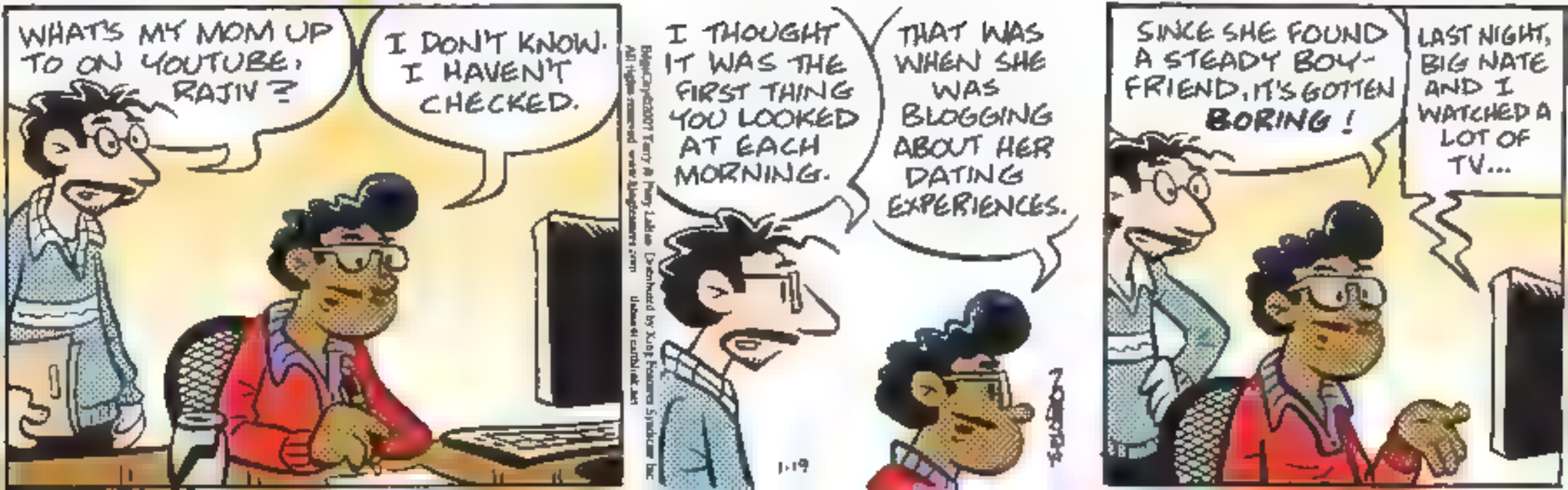

YOU MISSED YOUR BOOK GROUP BECAUSE THE BOOK WAS TOO GOOD?
SHH! SOMETHING IMPORTANT'S HAPPENING!

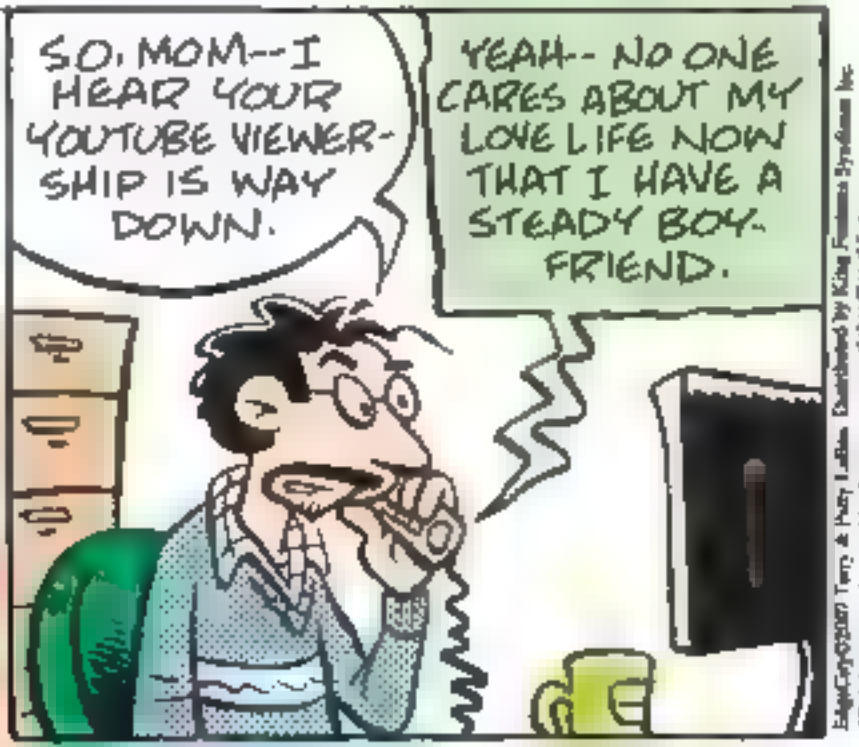

WOW! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOUR MOM'S A STAR ON YOUTUBE!
YEAH--FOR BLOGGING ABOUT HER LOVE LIFE!
I DON'T SEE WHY IT BOTHERS YOU SO MUCH. I THINK IT'S PRETTY COOL.
I WOULD TOO, IF IT WAS YOUR MOM!
SHE'S GOING OUT WITH THAT LOSER AGAIN?


LET'S SEE WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOUR MOM'S YOUTUBE BLOG TODAY, LEN.
HI, EVERYONE! SINCE THE NETWORKS DID STORIES ON ME, THINGS HAVE REALLY PICKED UP AROUND HERE.
AS OF 9:00 THIS MORNING, MEN HAVE BEEN LINED UP IN FRONT OF MY BUILDING TO ASK ME ON DATES!
HEY, GUYS! EVERYBODY TAKE A NUMBER!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
1.16

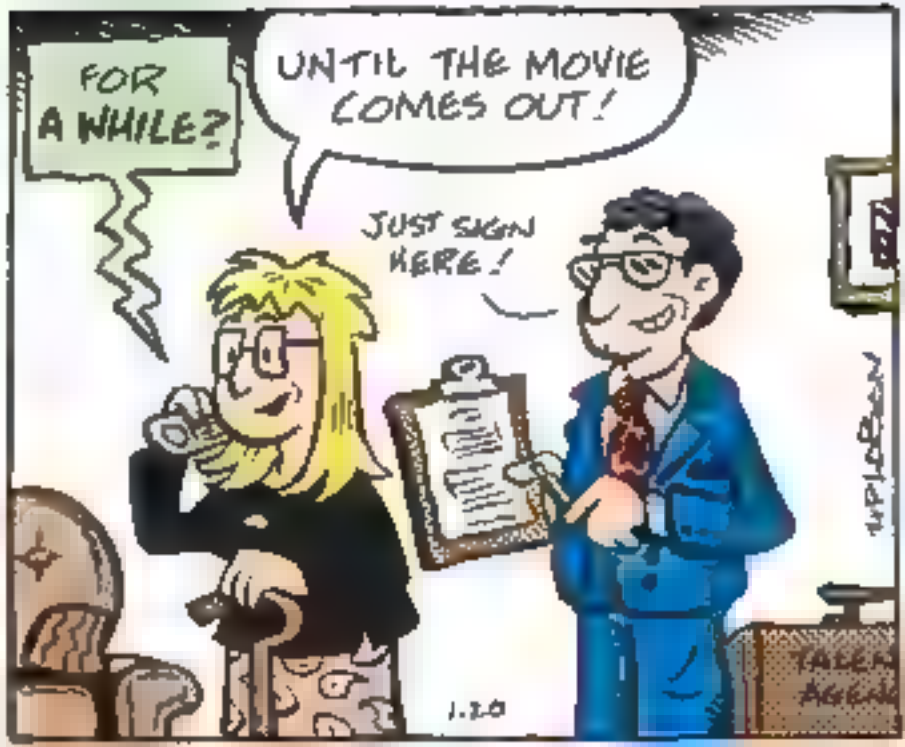

HEY, LEN! BIG DEVELOPMENTS ON YOUR MOM'S BLOG!
I KNOW A LOT OF YOU HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING MY EXPERIENCES AS A SINGLE OLDER LADY.
THROUGH YOUTUBE, I'VE MET A LOT OF NICE MEN. BUT I FINALLY THINK I'VE FOUND MY SOULMATE.
A WARM, KIND PERSON... GENTLE, CARING, INTELLIGENT AND SOPHISTICATED...
FRIENDS, MEET BIG NATE!
YO.


MOM! I SAW YOUR BLOG ON YOUTUBE TODAY!
OH! SO YOU KNOW ABOUT BIG NATE!
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH AN AGING HELLS ANGEL?
YOU CAN'T JUDGE PEOPLE BY APPEARANCES, LEN.
YOU CAN SOMETIMES!
WELL, IT'S TRUE HE USED TO RIDE WITH A BIKER GANG...
...BUT NOW HE OWNS A STRING OF HARLEY-DAVIDSON DEALERSHIPS!
DOES HE WANT A DEAL ON A HOG?


WHAT'S MY MOM UP TO ON YOUTUBE, RAJIV?
I DON'T KNOW. I HAVEN'T CHECKED.
I THOUGHT IT WAS THE FIRST THING YOU LOOKED AT EACH MORNING.
THAT WAS WHEN SHE WAS BLOGGING ABOUT HER DATING EXPERIENCES.
SINCE SHE FOUND A STEADY BOY-FRIEND, IT'S GOTTEN BORING!
LAST NIGHT, BIG NATE AND I WATCHED A LOT OF TV...


SO, MOM--I HEAR YOUR YOUTUBE VIEWERSHIP IS WAY DOWN.
YEAH-- NO ONE CARES ABOUT MY LOVE LIFE NOW THAT I HAVE A STEADY BOYFRIEND.

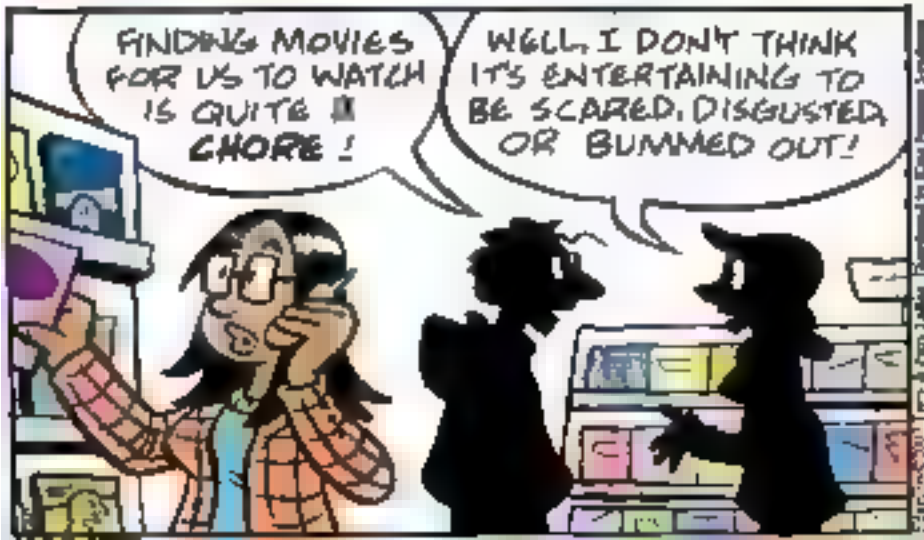
GOOD. I DIDN'T LIKE THE IDEA OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WATCHING YOU TALK ABOUT YOUR DATES.
WELL, YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT FOR A WHILE.

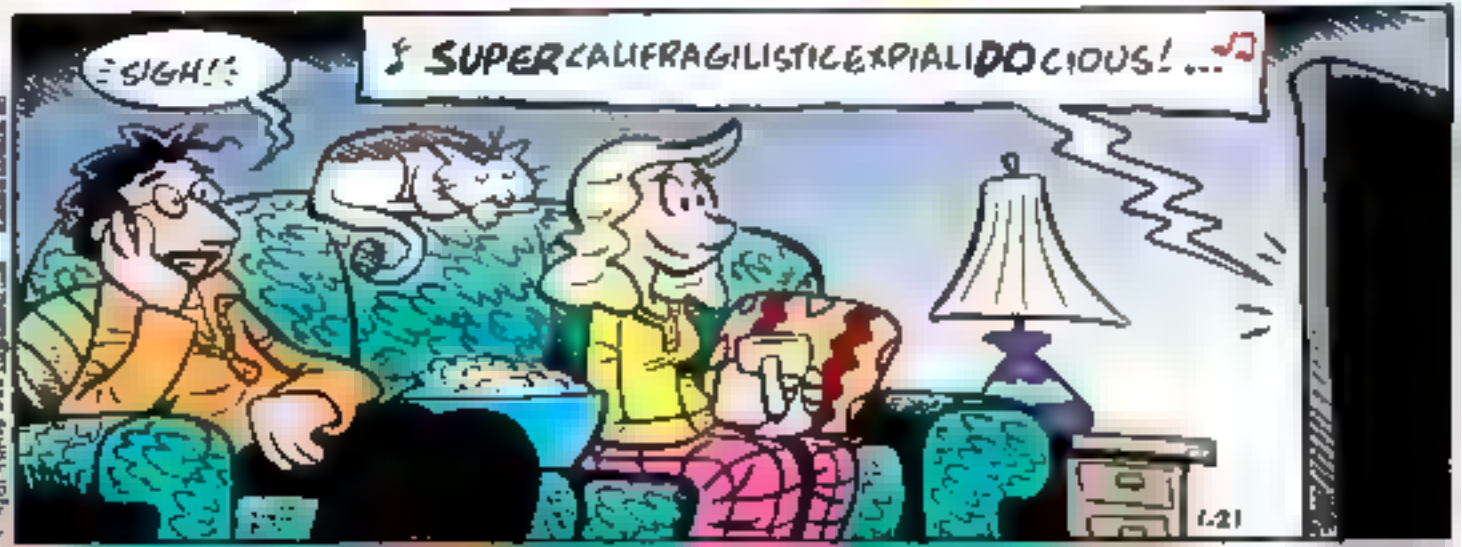

FOR A WHILE?
UNTIL THE MOVIE COMES OUT!
JUST SIGN HERE!

HOW ABOUT THIS ONE?
I DON'T WANT TO WATCH ANYTHING VIOLENT.

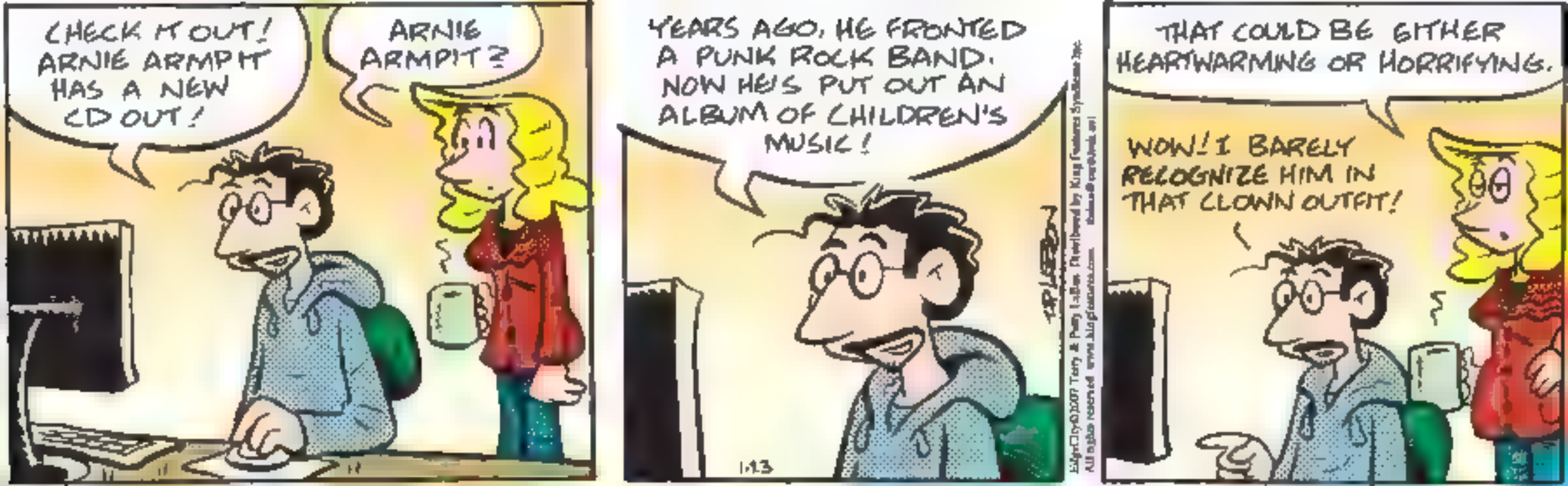
THESE ARE BOTH SUPPOSED TO BE GOOD.
I CAN'T HANDLE HORROR MOVIES. AND GROSS-OUT COMEDIES DRIVE ME UP THE WALL.

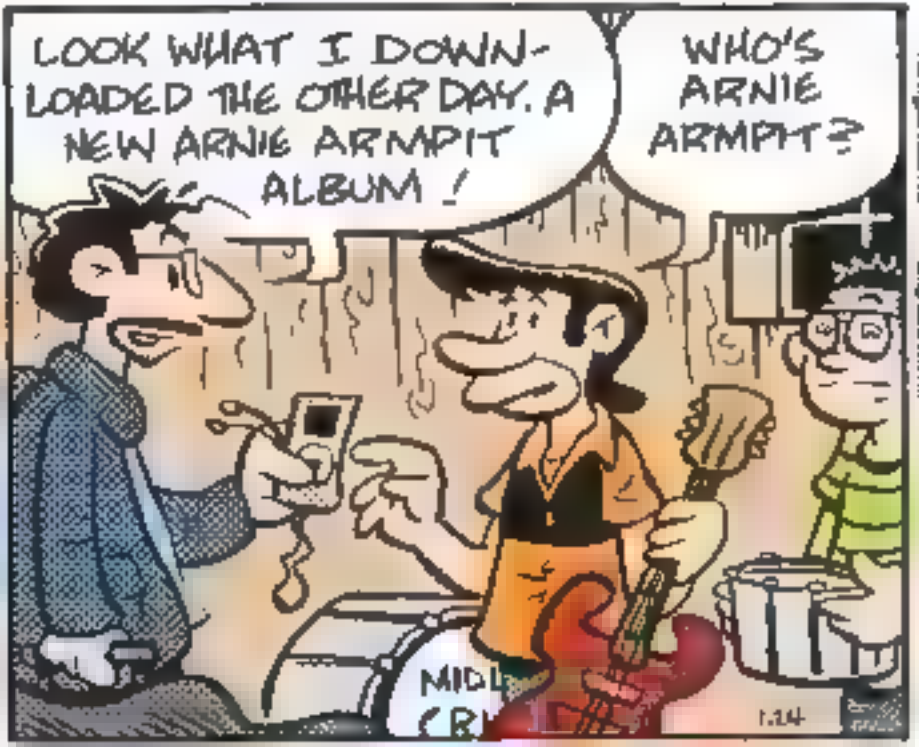
THIS GOT EXCELLENT REVIEWS.
I'D RATHER NOT SEE SOME HEAVY DRAMA. I DEAL WITH PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS ALL DAY AT WORK.


FINDING MOVIES FOR US TO WATCH IS QUITE A CHORE!
WELL, I DON'T THINK IT'S ENTERTAINING TO BE SCARED, DISGUSTED OR BUMMED OUT!


SIGH!
♪ SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICEXPIALIDOCIOUS! ...♫

WANNA PLAY "LONESOME TRAIN"?
HOW ABOUT "CINNAMON GIRL"?
AREN'T YOU GUYS TIRED OF PLAYING COVERS?
MIDLIFE CRISIS
HOW COME WE DON'T EVER DO ORIGINAL SONGS ANYMORE?
THE LAST TIME WE TRIED, IT DIDN'T WORK OUT.
WELL, A ROCK OPERA ABOUT THE 2004 BOSTON RED SOX MAY HAVE BEEN A TAD TOO AMBITIOUS.
YOU ONLY SAY THAT 'CUZ IT WAS MY IDEA!

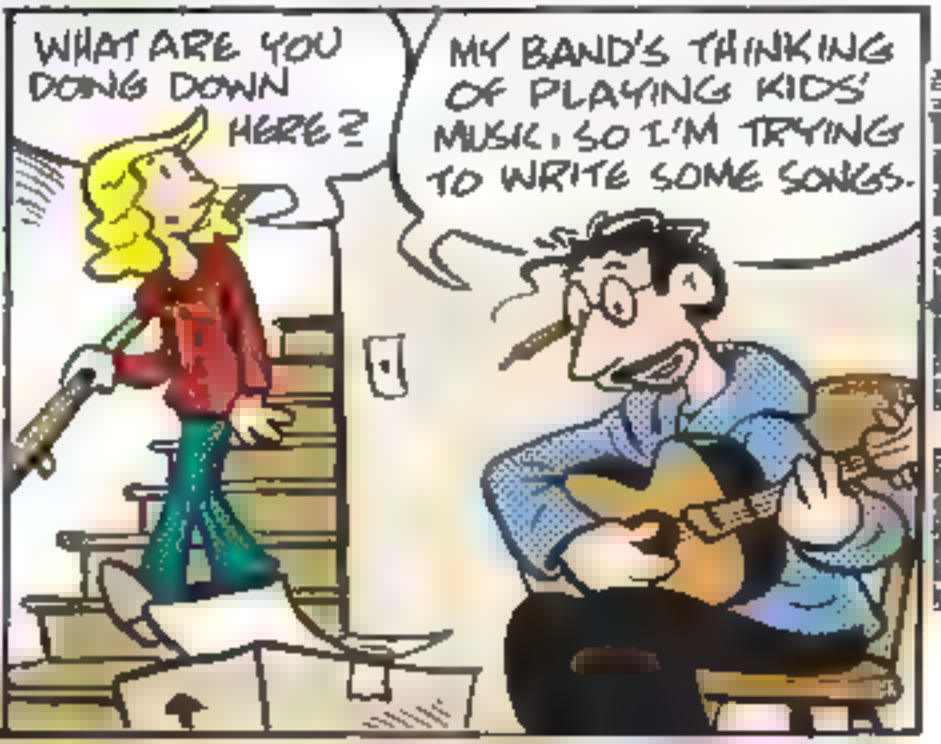

CHECK IT OUT! ARNIE ARMPIT HAS A NEW CD OUT!
ARNIE ARMPIT?
YEARS AGO, HE FRONTED A PUNK ROCK BAND. NOW HE'S PUT OUT AN ALBUM OF CHILDREN'S MUSIC!
1-13
THAT COULD BE EITHER HEARTWARMING OR HORRIFYING.
WOW! I BARELY RECOGNIZE HIM IN THAT CLOWN OUTFIT!


LOOK WHAT I DOWN-LOADED THE OTHER DAY. A NEW ARNIE ARMPIT ALBUM!
WHO'S ARNIE ARMPIT?

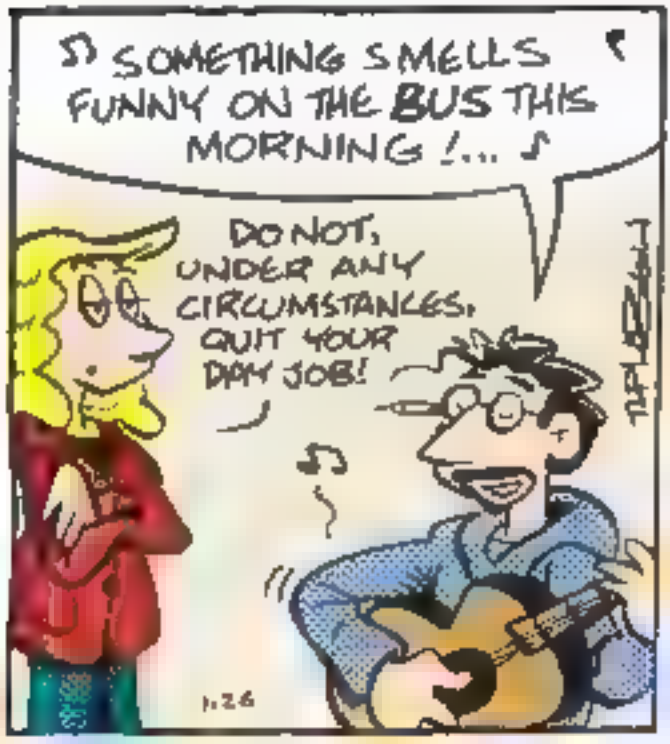
HE FRONTED A HARDCORE BAND IN THE '80S. THEIR BEST-KNOWN SONG WAS "EAT MY HAND GRENADE."
WHAT'S HE DOING NOW?

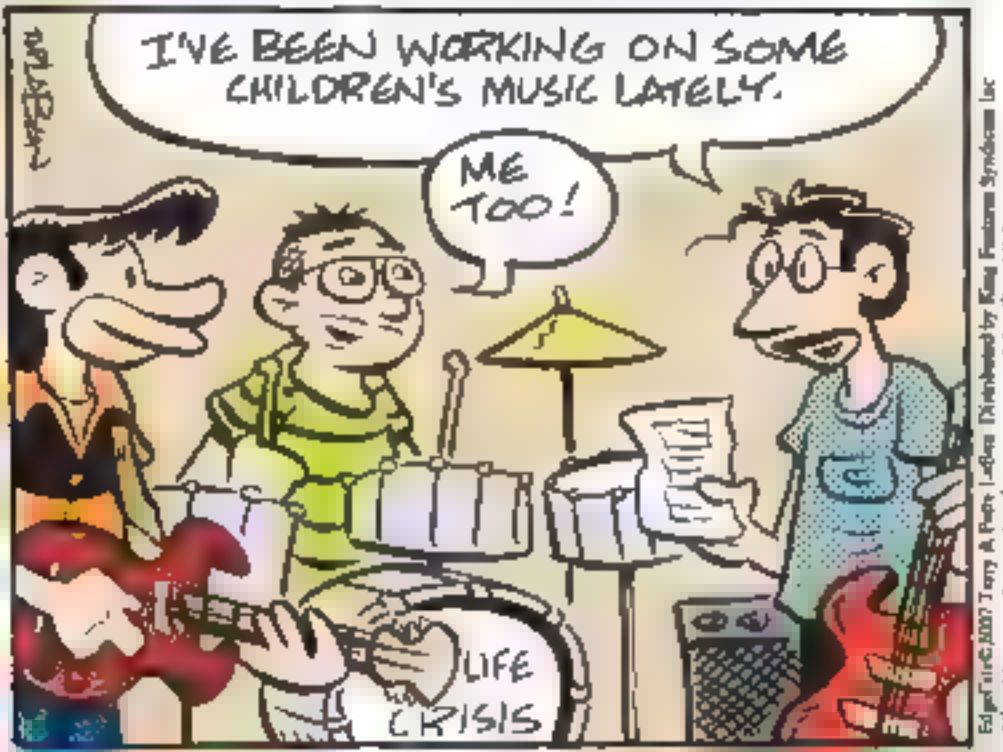
CHILDREN'S MUSIC!
"BEEP BEEP, MY CAR SEAT'S NEAT"?!
PEOPLE CHANGE, HUH?

I THINK IT'S COOL THAT THESE OLD PUNK ROCKERS ARE DOING KIDS' MUSIC. MAYBE WE SHOULD TRY IT!
KIDS' MUSIC?
WHY NOT? IT'D BE FUN, AND WE MIGHT EVEN MAKE SOME MONEY.
WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT KIDS' MUSIC, LEN!
SURE WE DO, SAM! YOU HAVE YOUNG KIDS! WHAT ARE THEY INTO?
CALCULUS.
YOU NEVER MISS A CHANCE TO BRAG, DO YOU?


WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN HERE?
MY BAND'S THINKING OF PLAYING KIDS' MUSIC, SO I'M TRYING TO WRITE SOME SONGS.

I'M THINKING BACK ON SOME OF THE THINGS THAT WERE IMPORTANT TO ME AS A KID.


♫ SOMETHING SMELLS FUNNY ON THE BUS THIS MORNING!... ♪
DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, QUIT YOUR DAY JOB!
1.26



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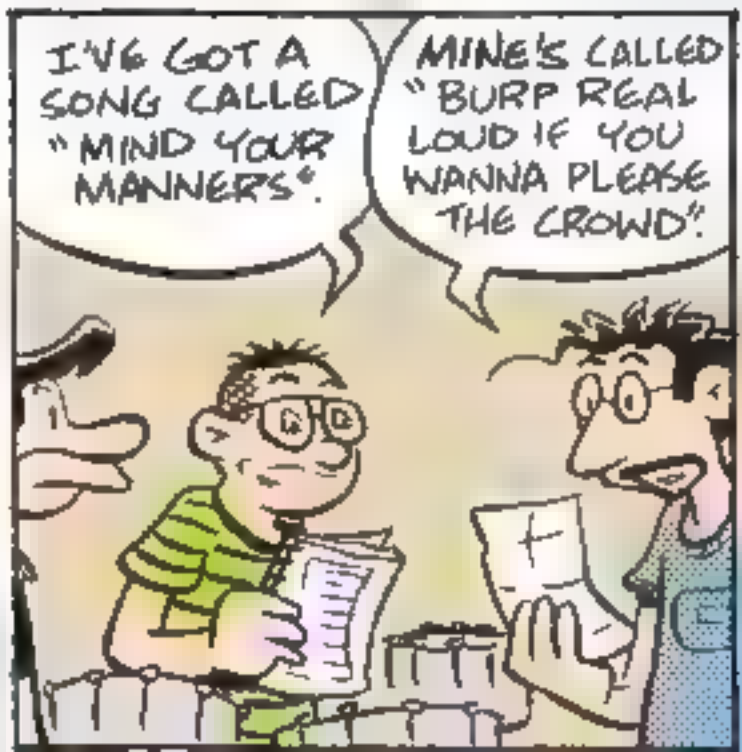
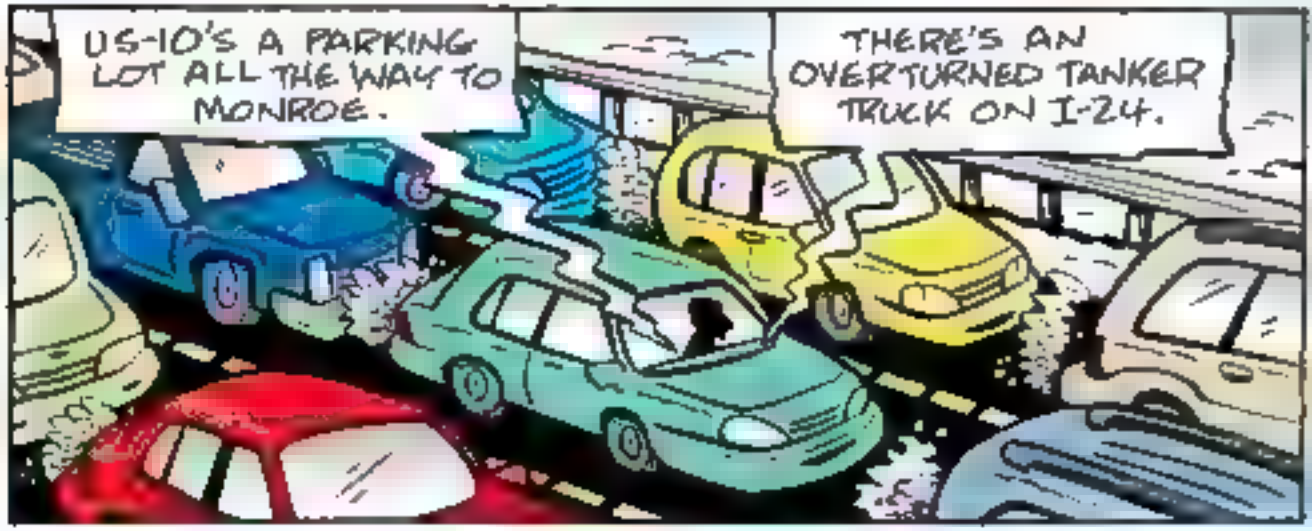
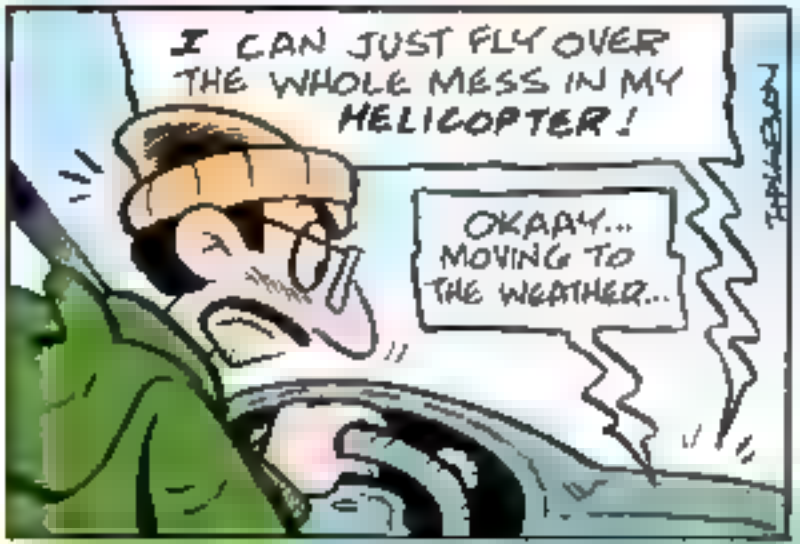


IT'S 6:00 AND TIME FOR TRAFFIC WATCH. HOW'S IT LOOK OUT THERE, RYAN?
NOT TOO GOOD, LINDA.


US-10'S A PARKING LOT ALL THE WAY TO MONROE.
THERE'S AN OVERTURNED TANKER TRUCK ON I-24.

OUTER DRIVE IS CLOGGED IN BOTH DIRECTIONS, AND WATSON TO THE PARKWAY WILL TAKE AT LEAST AN HOUR.

BUT THERE IS A BRIGHT SPOT IN ALL THIS, LINDA.
WHAT'S THAT?
1-18


I CAN JUST FLY OVER THE WHOLE MESS IN MY HELICOPTER!
OKAAY... MOVING TO THE WEATHER...

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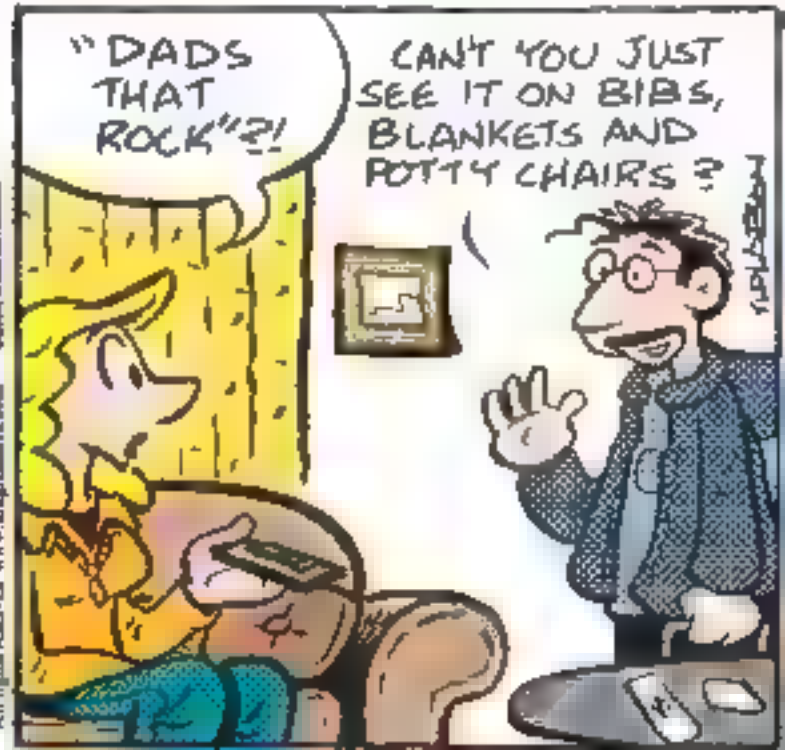
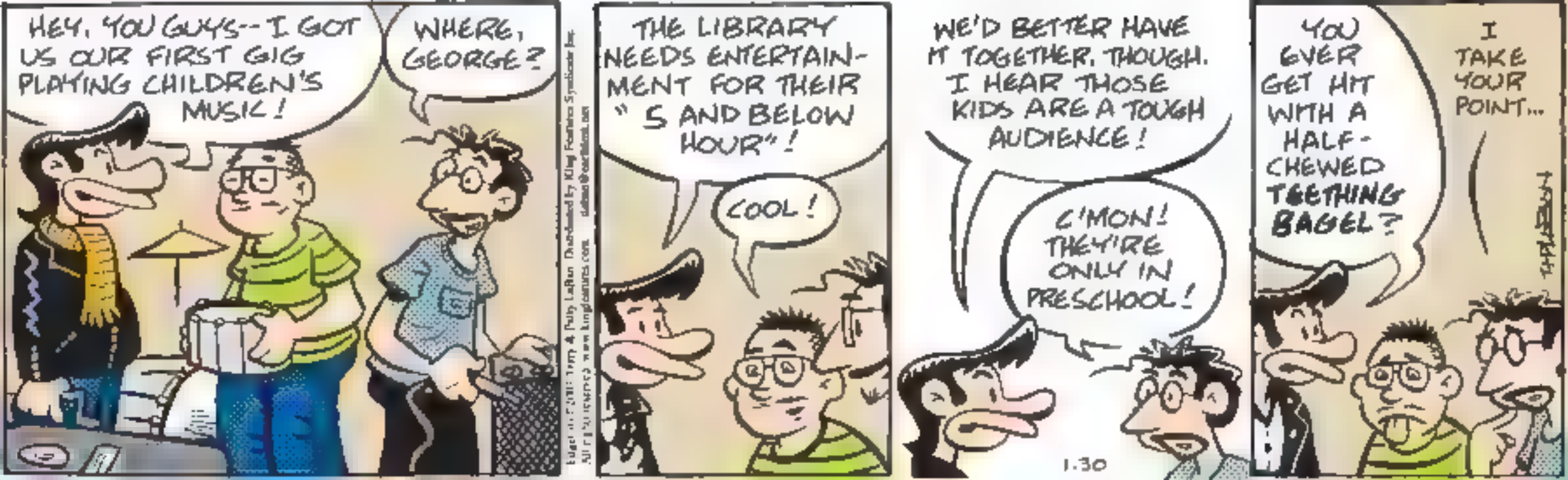
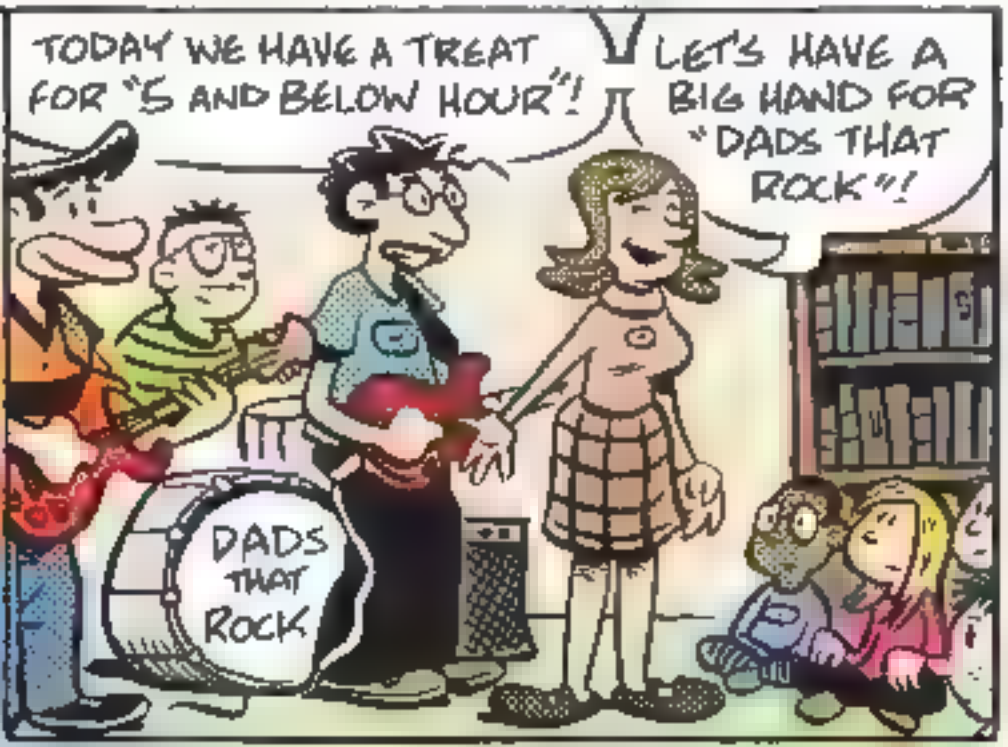



HEY, YOU GUYS-- I GOT US OUR FIRST GIG PLAYING CHILDREN'S MUSIC!
WHERE, GEORGE?
THE LIBRARY NEEDS ENTERTAINMENT FOR THEIR "5 AND BELOW HOUR"!
COOL!
WE'D BETTER HAVE IT TOGETHER, THOUGH. I HEAR THOSE KIDS ARE A TOUGH AUDIENCE!
C'MON! THEY'RE ONLY IN PRESCHOOL!
1-30
YOU EVER GET HIT WITH A HALF-CHEWED TEETHING BAGEL?
I TAKE YOUR POINT...



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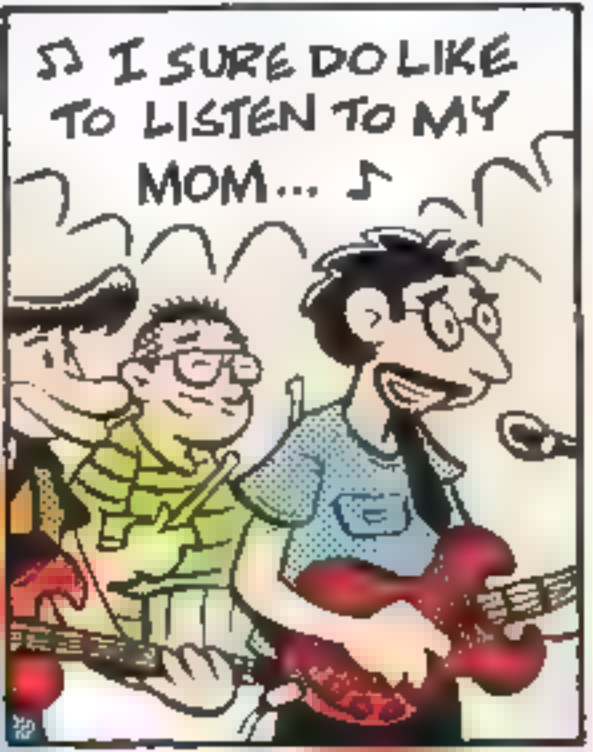

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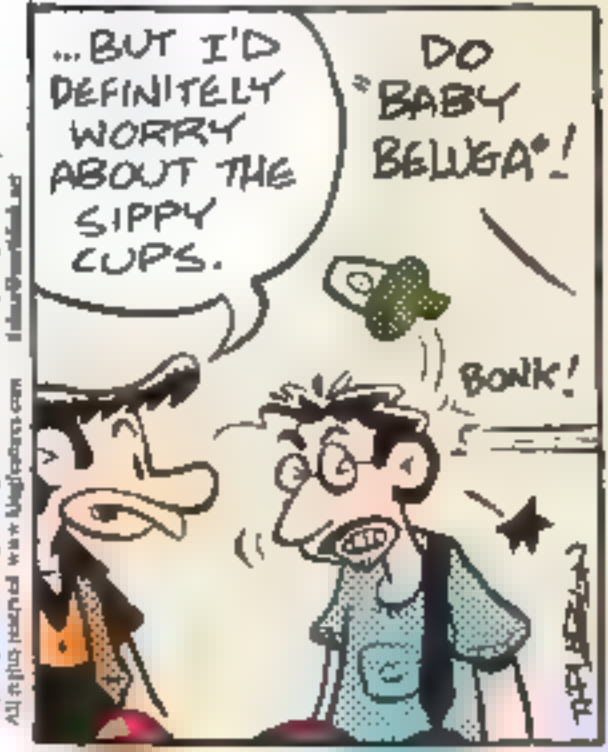
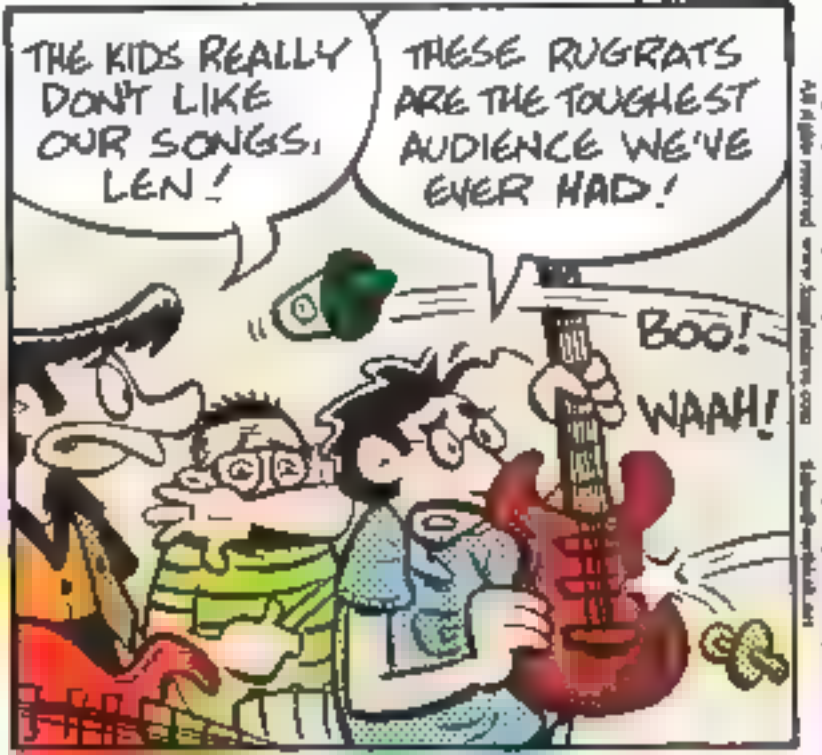
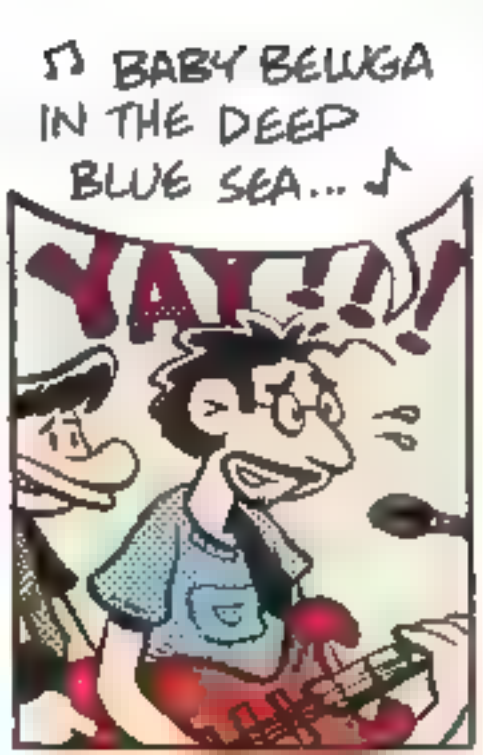



THE KIDS REALLY DON'T LIKE OUR SONGS, LEN!
THESE RUGRATS ARE THE TOUGHEST AUDIENCE WE'VE EVER HAD!
BOO!
WAAH!

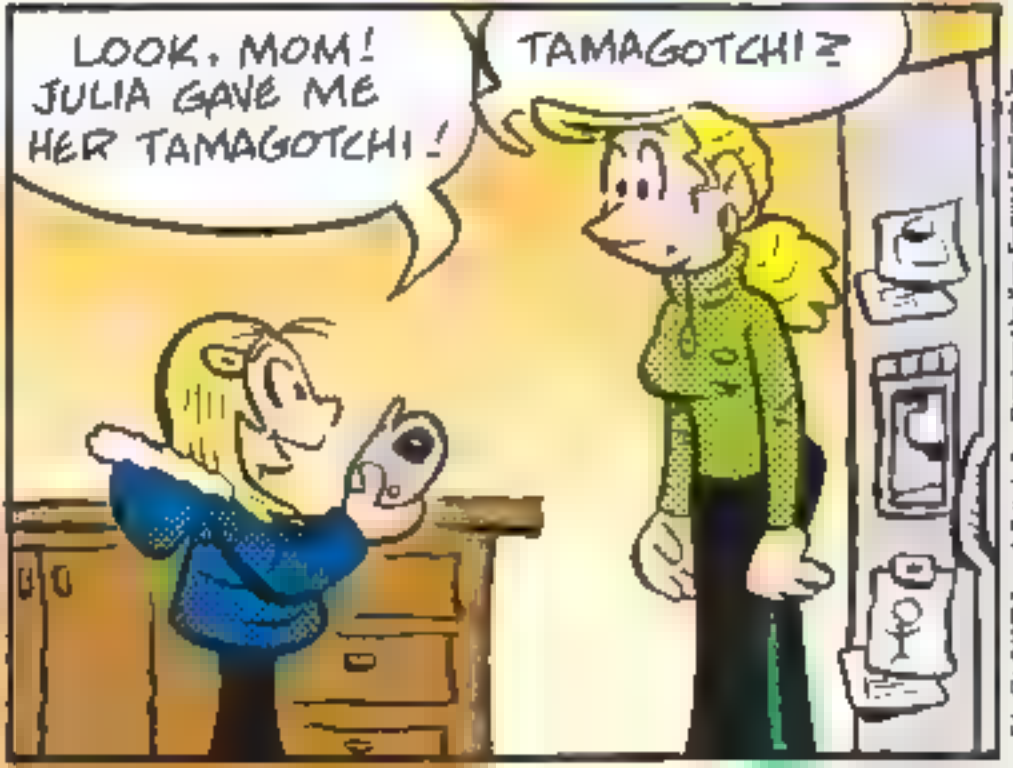
WE SAID WE WOULDN'T PLAY COVERS. BUT THEY NEED TO HEAR SOMETHING THEY KNOW!
MAYBE IT'LL SETTLE THEM DOWN A LITTLE.


♫ BABY BELUGA IN THE DEEP BLUE SEA... ♪
YAY!!!

HEH! YOU LIKED THAT, HUH, GUYS?
PLAY IT AGAIN!

SO, YOUR CHILDREN'S CONCERT AT THE LIBRARY DIDN'T GO SO WELL?
NO. THE KIDS HATED OUR SONGS!
WE GOT INTO KIDS' MUSIC BECAUSE WE WANTED TO PLAY ORIGINALS. BUT ALL THEY WANTED TO HEAR WAS "BABY BELUGA"...
...25 TIMES!
ONCE A COVER BAND, ALWAYS A COVER BAND.
2-3

HEY, DAD! PLAY THAT GREEN DAY SONG!
WE JUST HEARD IT, CARLY!
PLAY IT AGAIN!
WE'VE ALREADY PLAYED IT FIVE TIMES!
Y'KNOW, IF YOU LIKE GREEN DAY, YOU MIGHT LIKE THIS-- IT'S BY A BAND CALLED THE RAMONES.
PRETTY GOOD, HUH?
YEAH!
ROCK ROCK ROCKAWAY BEACH!...
HEY, DAD! PLAY THAT RAMONES SONG!
C'MON, CARLY! WE'VE ALREADY HEARD IT TEN TIMES!



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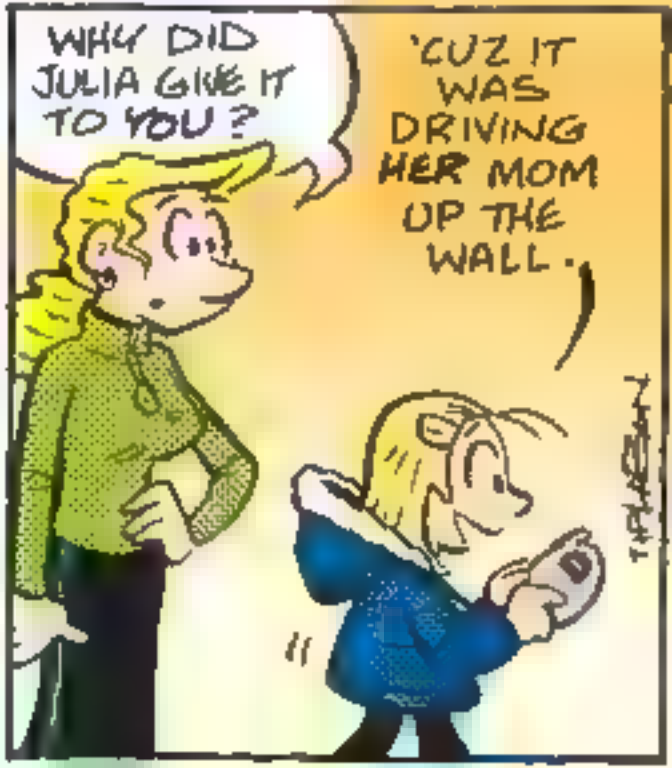
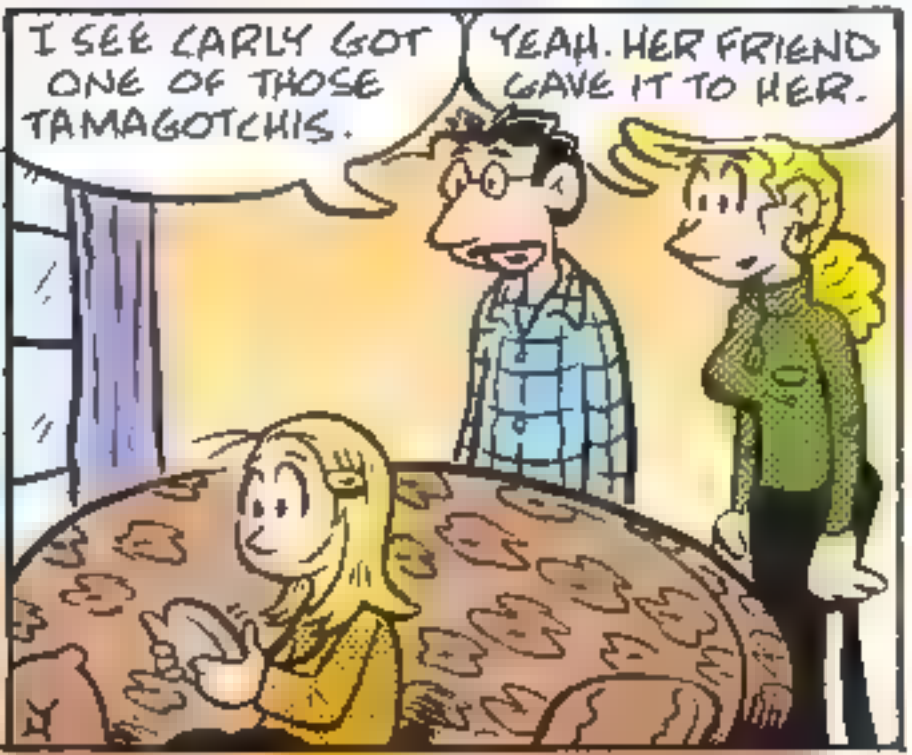
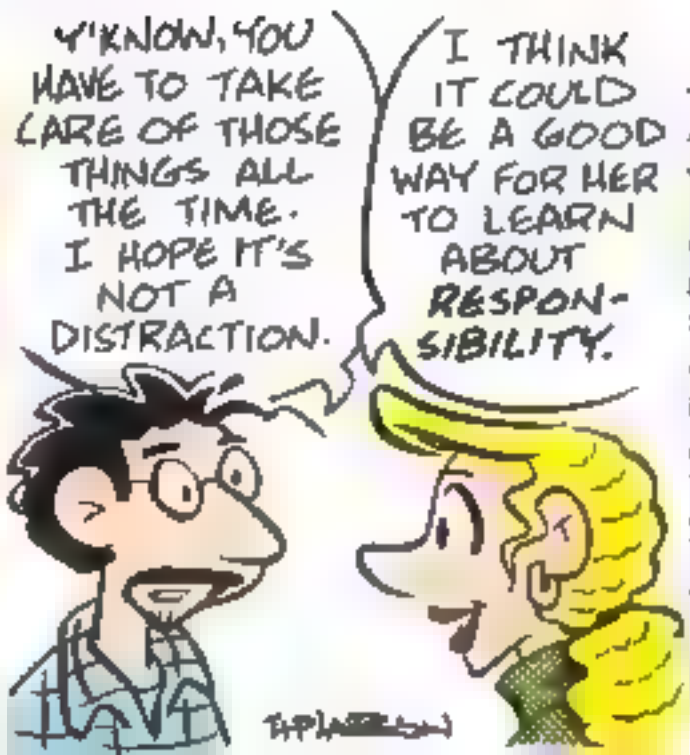
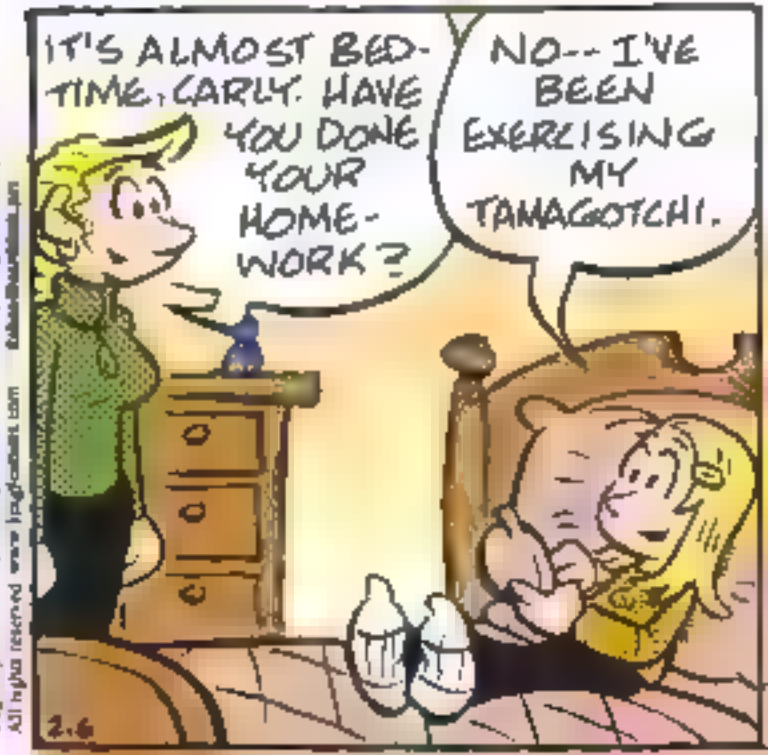
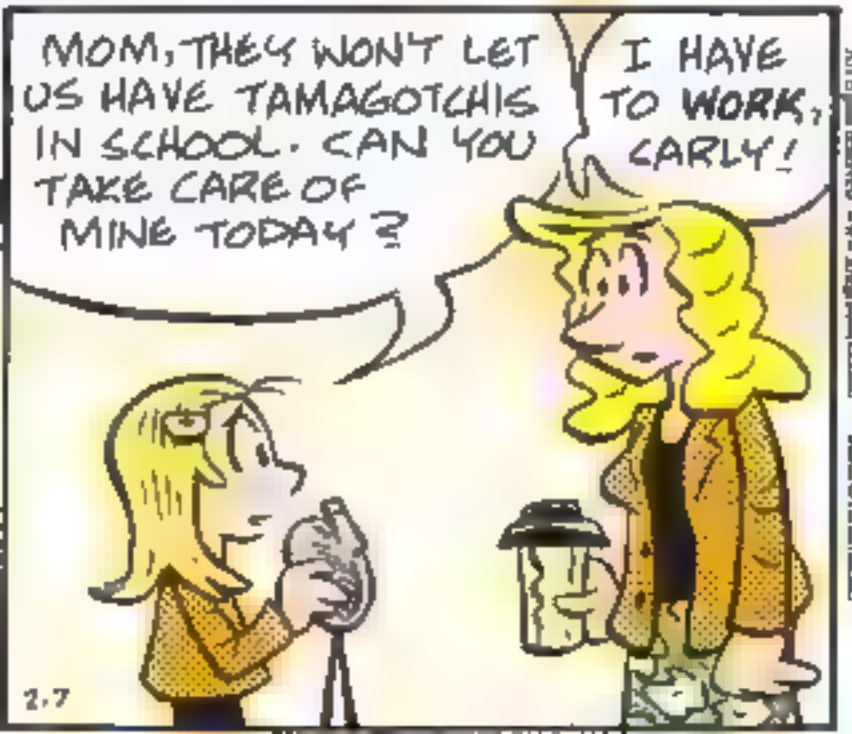



I SEE CARLY GOT ONE OF THOSE TAMAGOTCHIS.
YEAH. HER FRIEND GAVE IT TO HER.


Y'KNOW, YOU HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THOSE THINGS ALL THE TIME. I HOPE IT'S NOT A DISTRACTION.
I THINK IT COULD BE A GOOD WAY FOR HER TO LEARN ABOUT RESPONSIBILITY.


IT'S ALMOST BEDTIME, CARLY. HAVE YOU DONE YOUR HOMEWORK?
NO-- I'VE BEEN EXERCISING MY TAMAGOTCHI.
2-6



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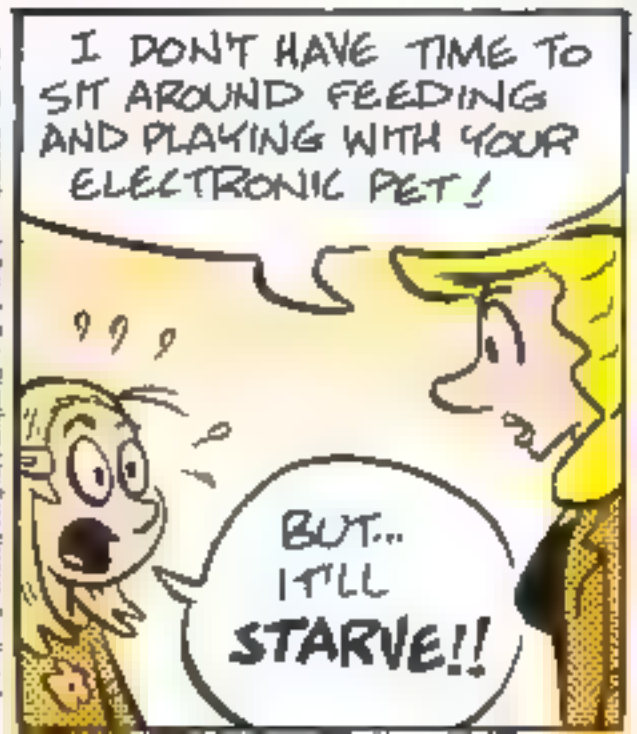

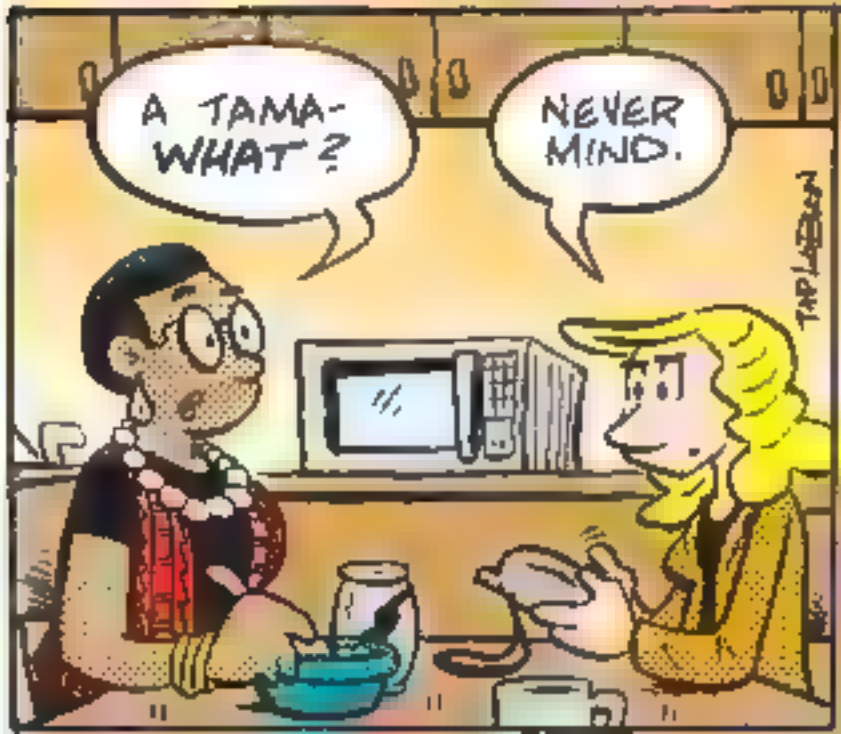

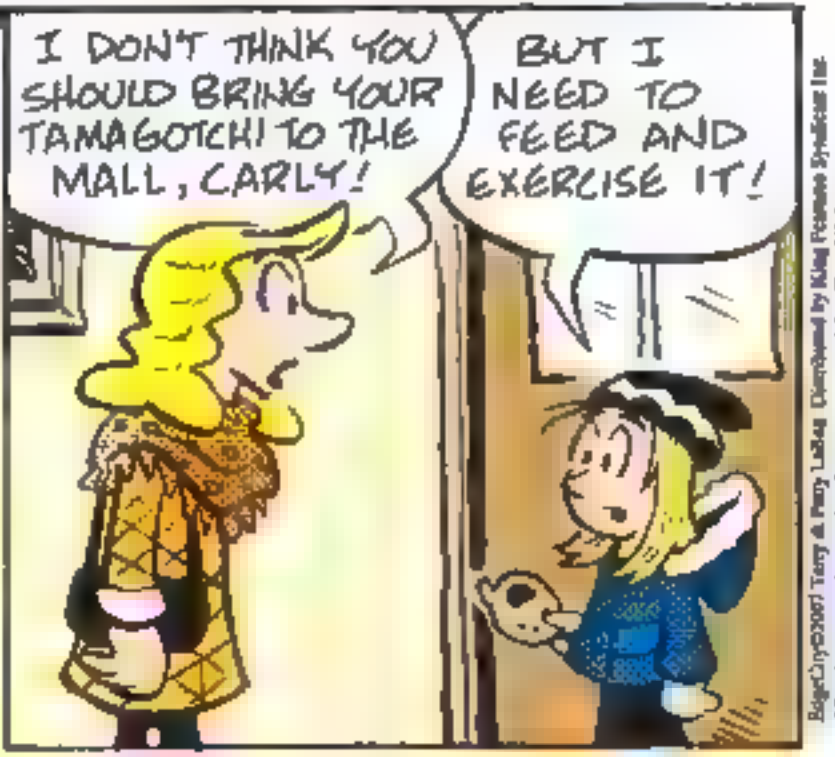

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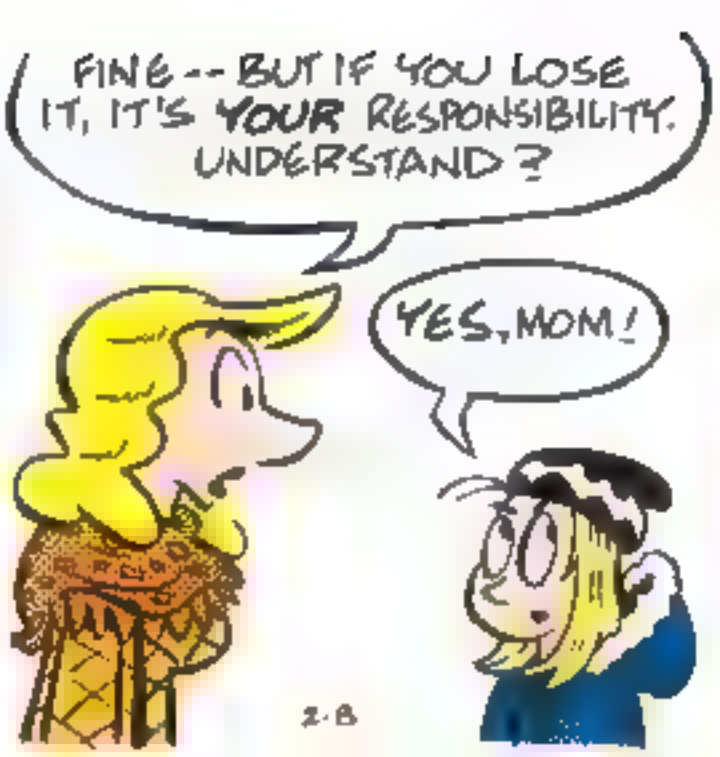
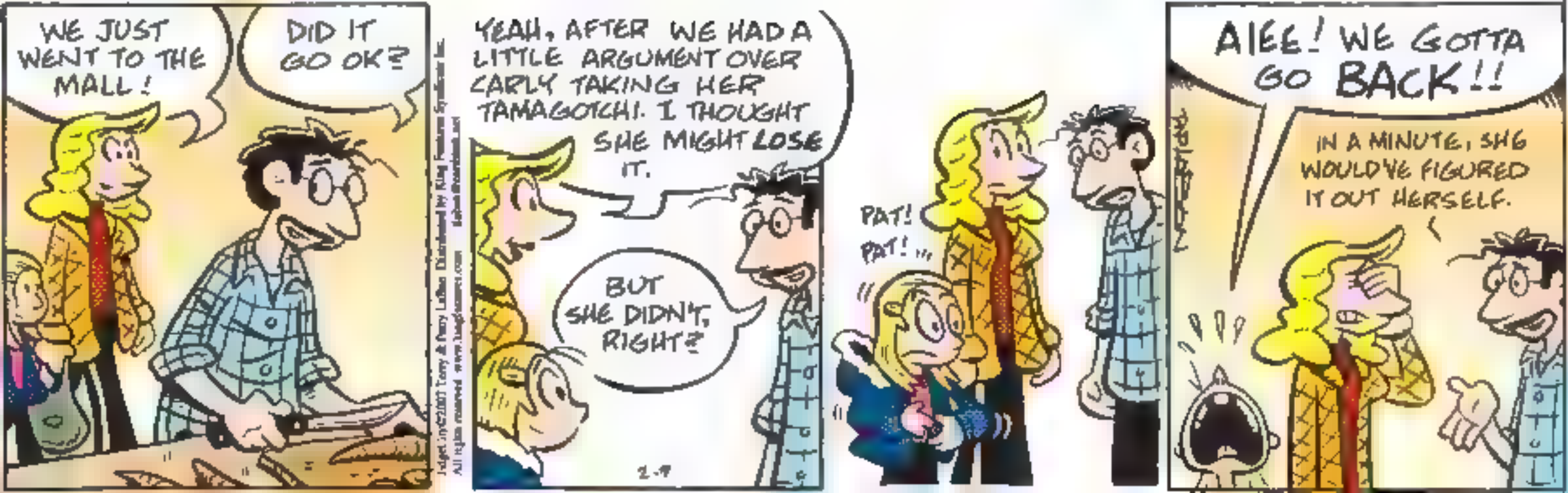
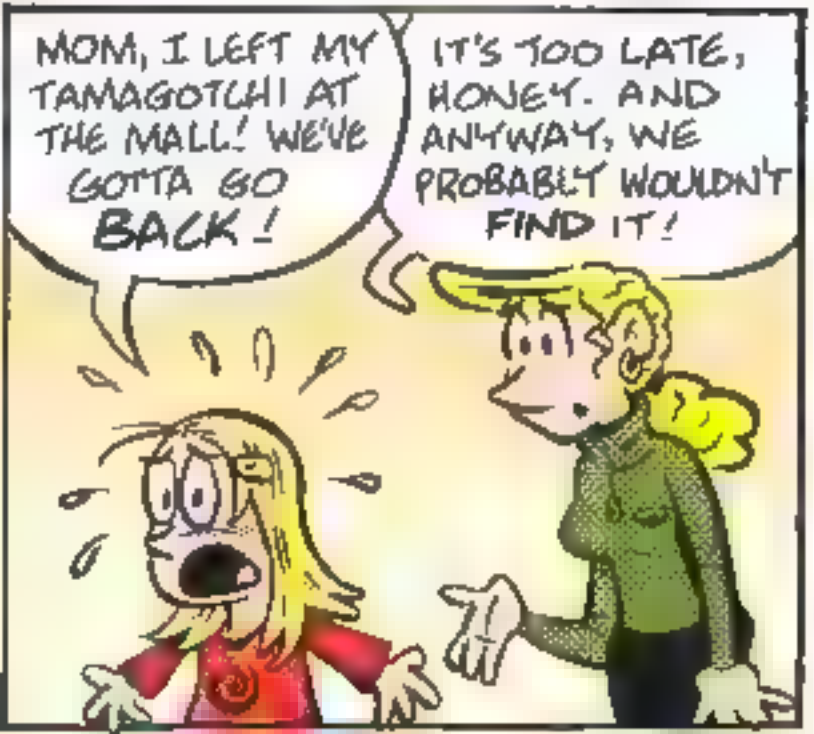


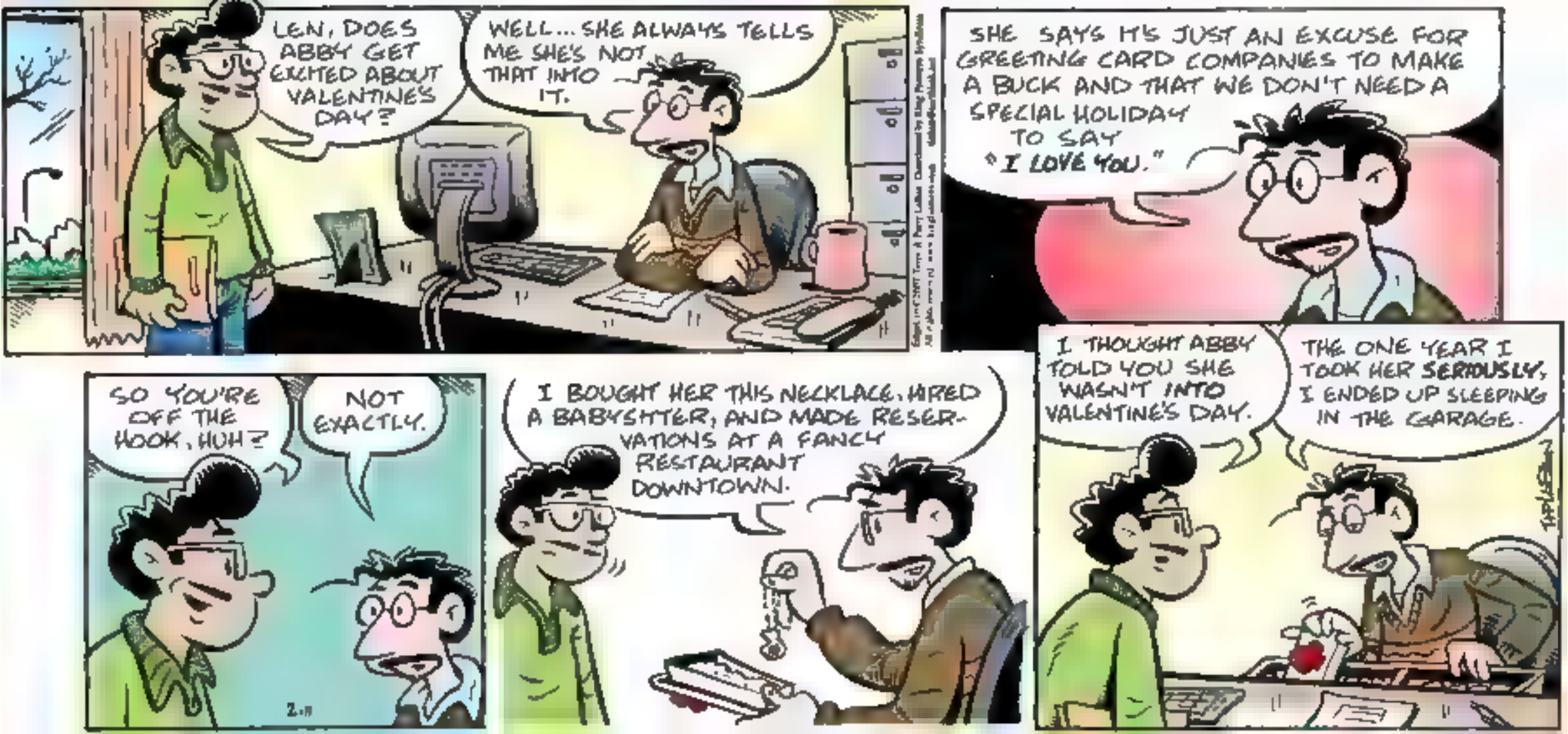

WE JUST WENT TO THE MALL!
DID IT GO OK?
YEAH, AFTER WE HAD A LITTLE ARGUMENT OVER CARLY TAKING HER TAMAGOTCHI. I THOUGHT SHE MIGHT LOSE IT.
BUT SHE DIDN'T, RIGHT?
PAT! PAT!
AIEE! WE GOTTA GO BACK!!
IN A MINUTE, SHE WOULD'VE FIGURED IT OUT HERSELF.

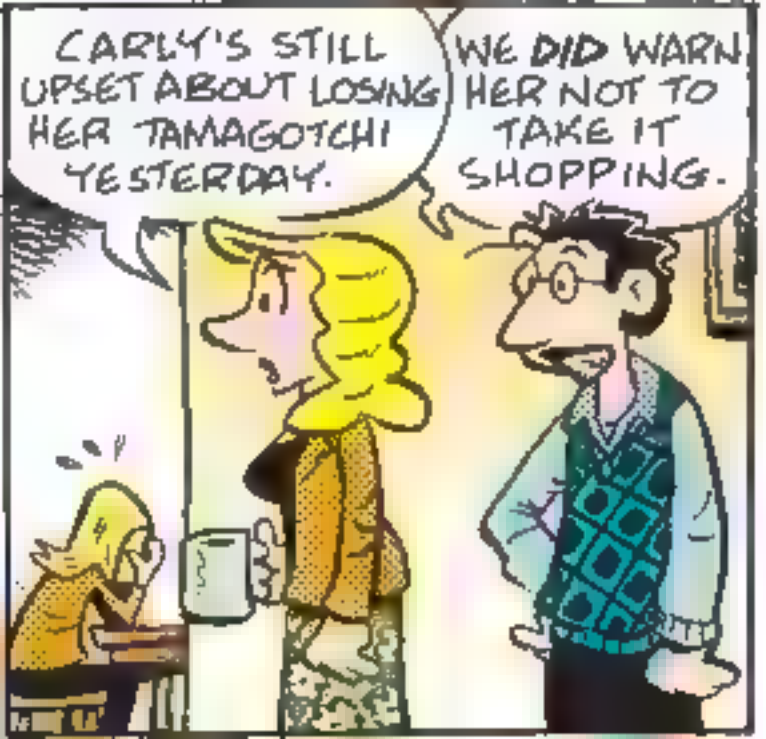

MOM, I LEFT MY TAMAGOTCHI AT THE MALL! WE'VE GOTTA GO BACK!
IT'S TOO LATE, HONEY. AND ANYWAY, WE PROBABLY WOULDN'T FIND IT!

BOY, CARLY'S REALLY UPSET!
WELL, YOU WARNED HER NOT TO TAKE THAT TOY SHOPPING.

IT'S TOO BAD. BUT SOMETIMES KIDS NEED TO LEARN A LESSON. SHE'LL GET OVER IT.

IT'S STARVING! :SOB!:
I HOPE SHE GETS OVER IT SOON--IT'S ALMOST 3AM!


LEN, DOES ABBY GET EXCITED ABOUT VALENTINE'S DAY?
WELL... SHE ALWAYS TELLS ME SHE'S NOT THAT INTO IT.
SHE SAYS IT'S JUST AN EXCUSE FOR GREETING CARD COMPANIES TO MAKE A BUCK AND THAT WE DON'T NEED A SPECIAL HOLIDAY TO SAY "I LOVE YOU."
SO YOU'RE OFF THE HOOK, HUH?
NOT EXACTLY.
I BOUGHT HER THIS NECKLACE, HIRED A BABYSITTER, AND MADE RESERVATIONS AT A FANCY RESTAURANT DOWNTOWN.
I THOUGHT ABBY TOLD YOU SHE WASN'T INTO VALENTINE'S DAY.
THE ONE YEAR I TOOK HER SERIOUSLY, I ENDED UP SLEEPING IN THE GARAGE.



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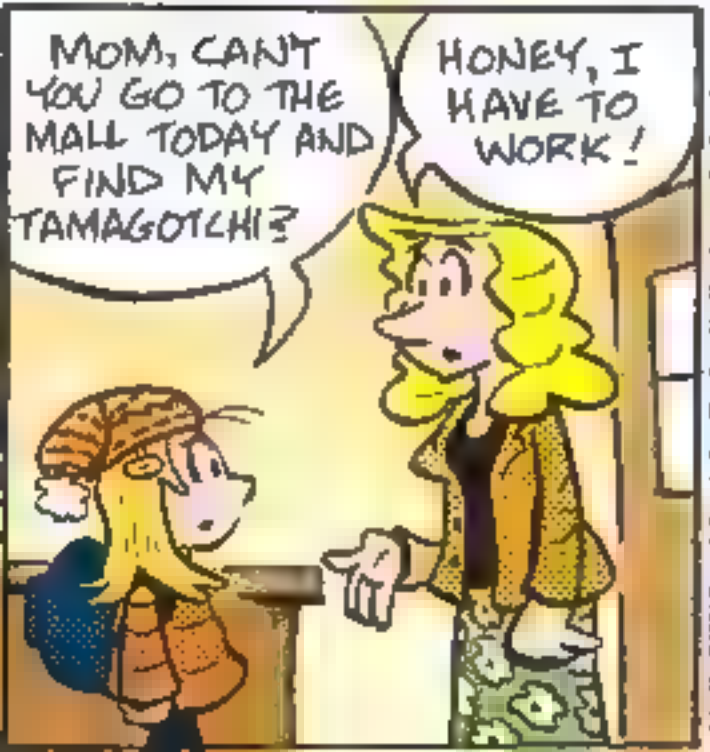

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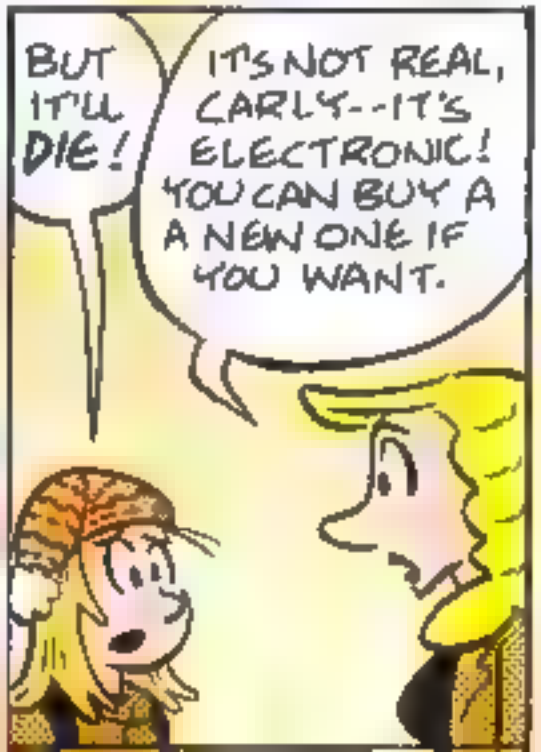
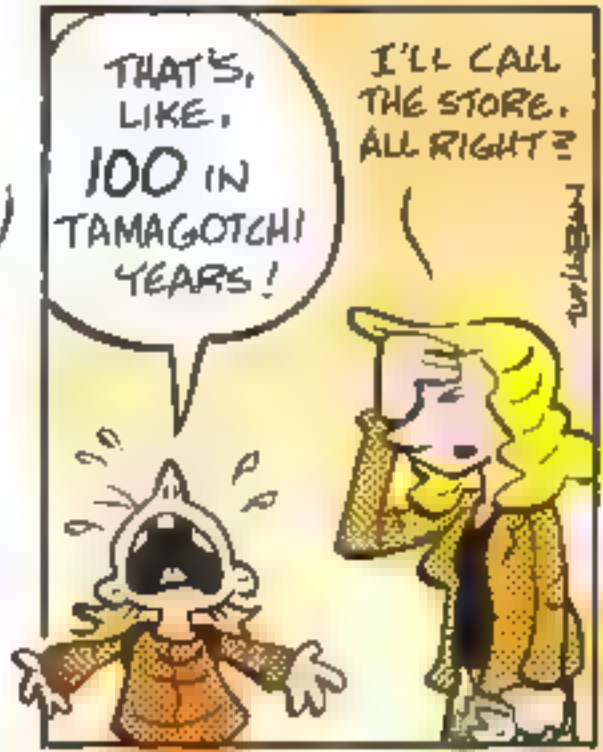
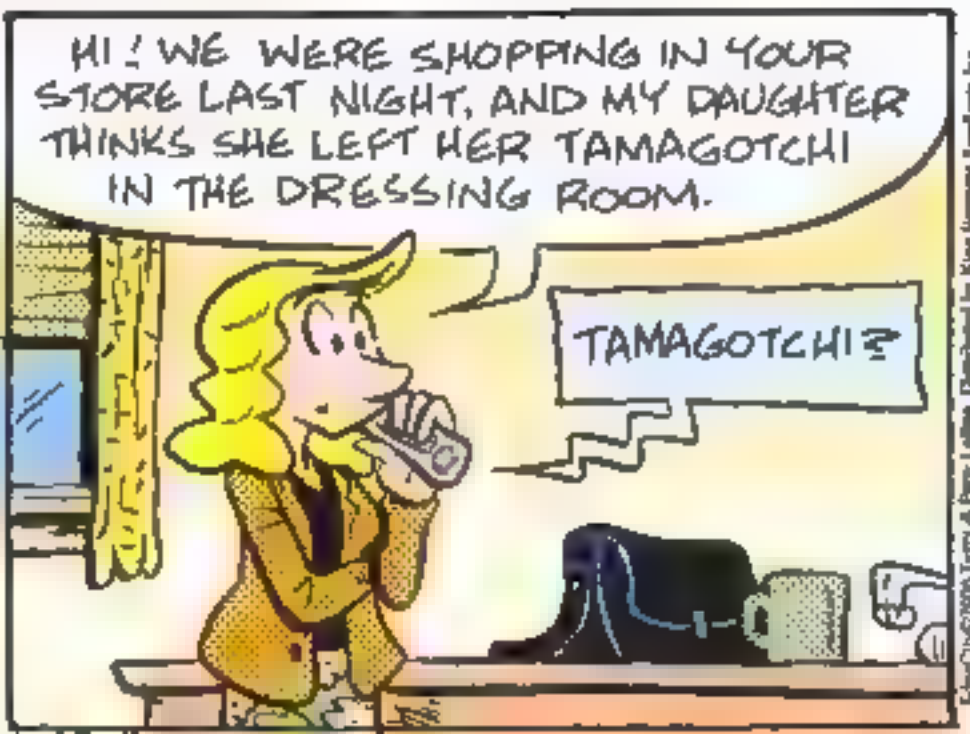
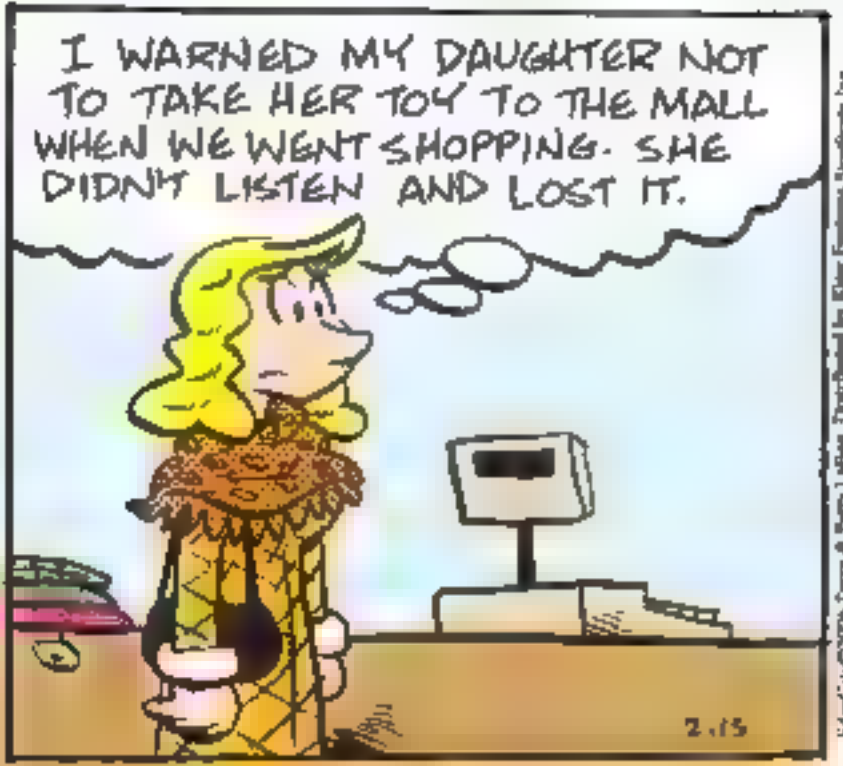





HI! WE WERE SHOPPING IN YOUR STORE LAST NIGHT, AND MY DAUGHTER THINKS SHE LEFT HER TAMAGOTCHI IN THE DRESSING ROOM.
TAMAGOTCHI?

IT LOOKS KIND OF LIKE A GAMEBOY ON A NECKLACE. THERE'S AN ELECTRONIC PET ON IT--YOU HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF IT OR IT'LL DIE.

YOUR DAUGHTER LOST A DYING PET WEARING A NECKLACE IN OUR STORE?!
CAN I TALK TO SOMEONE UNDER 35?



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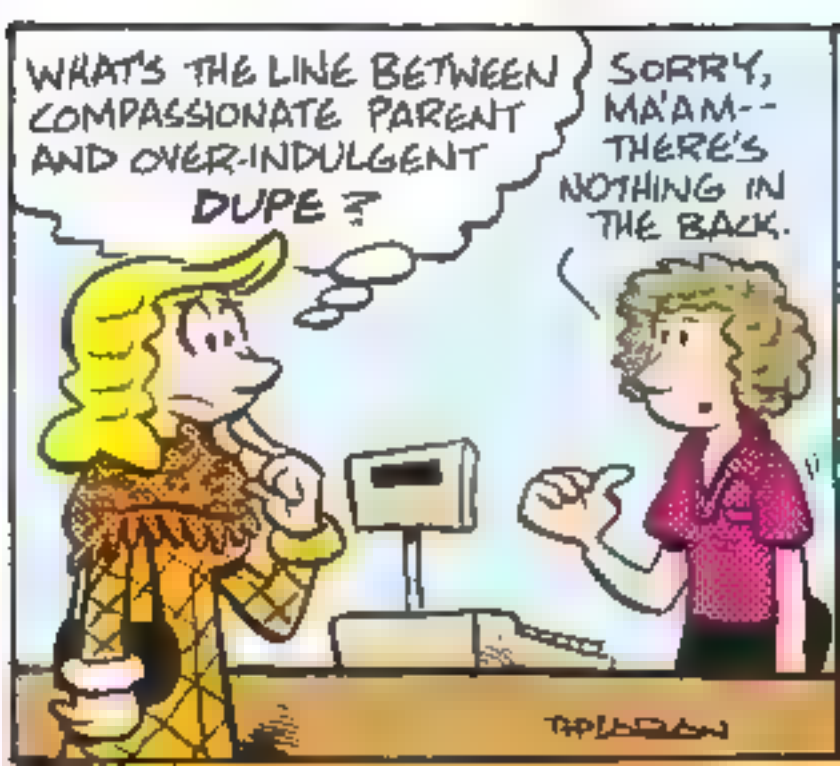

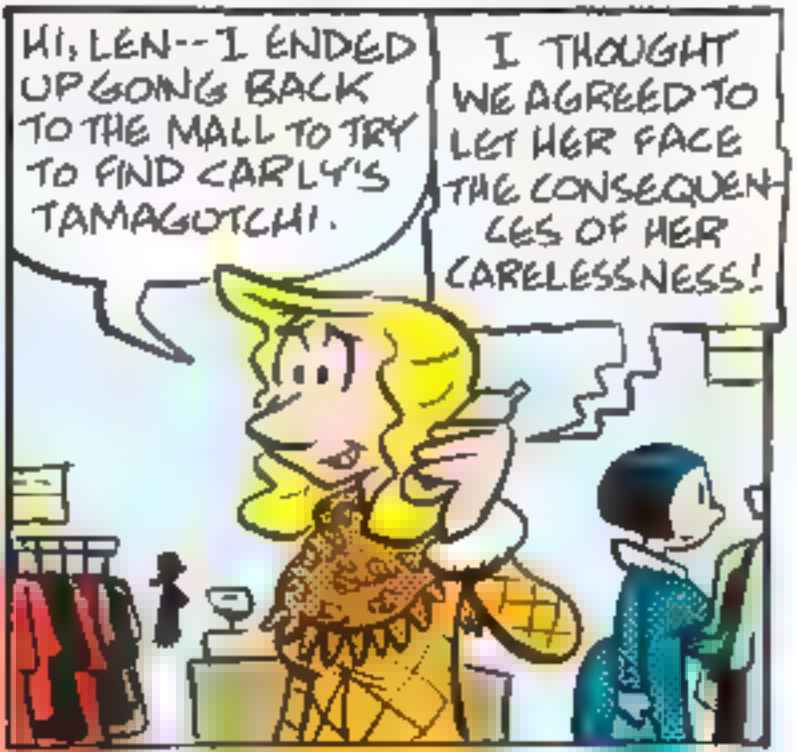

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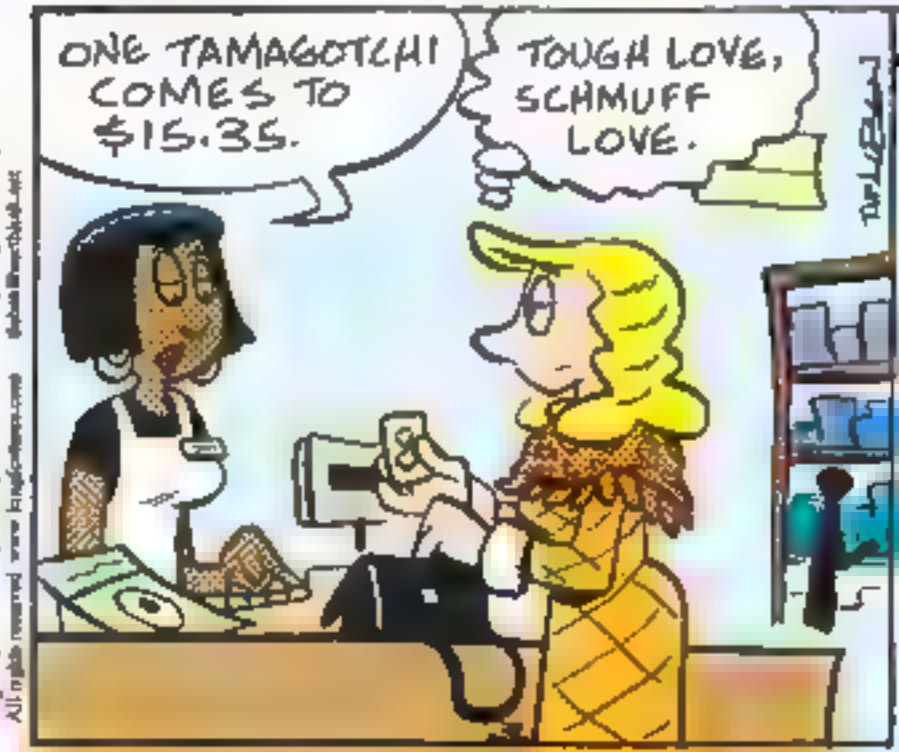

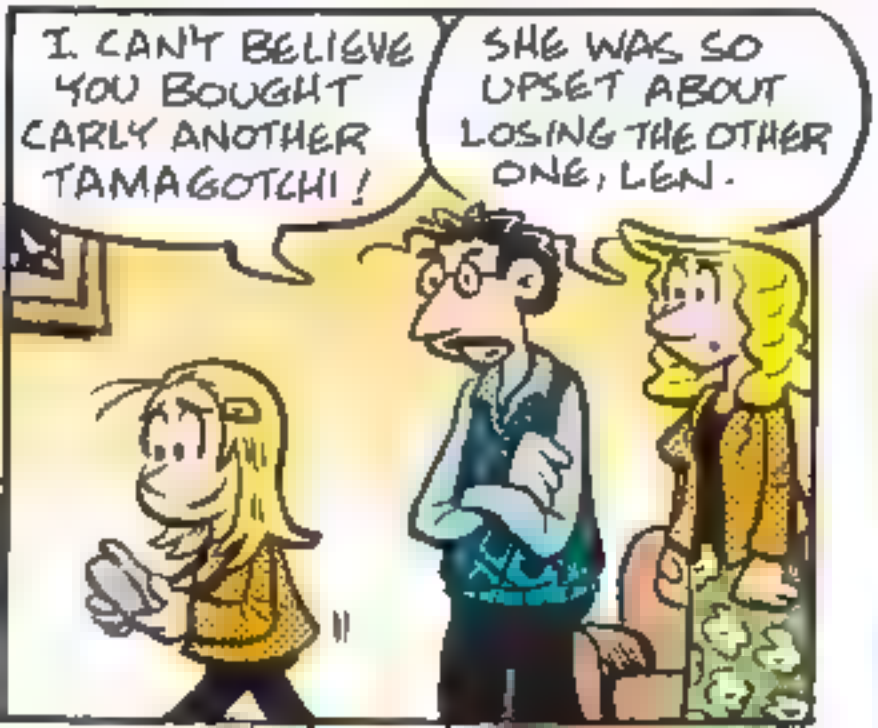

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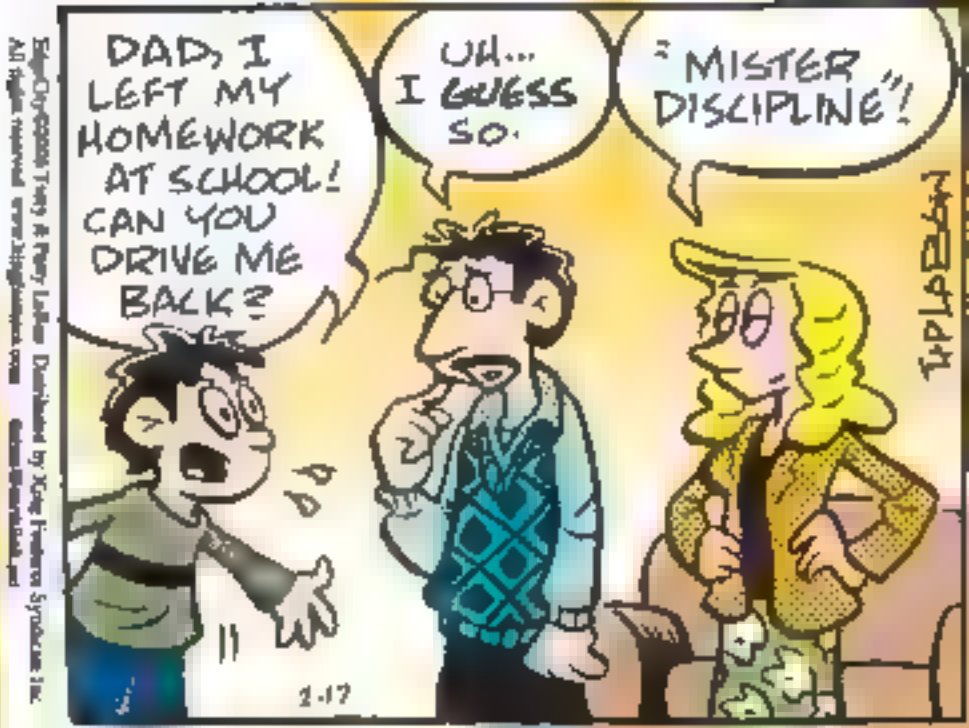
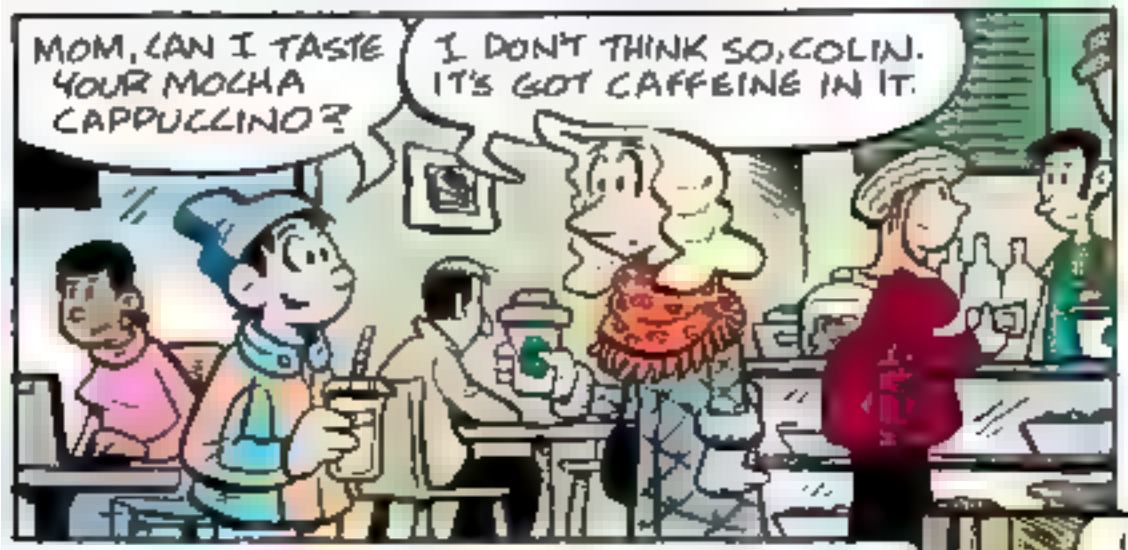
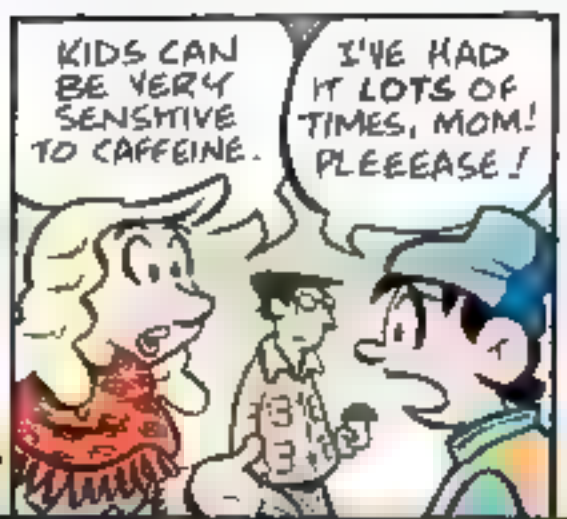
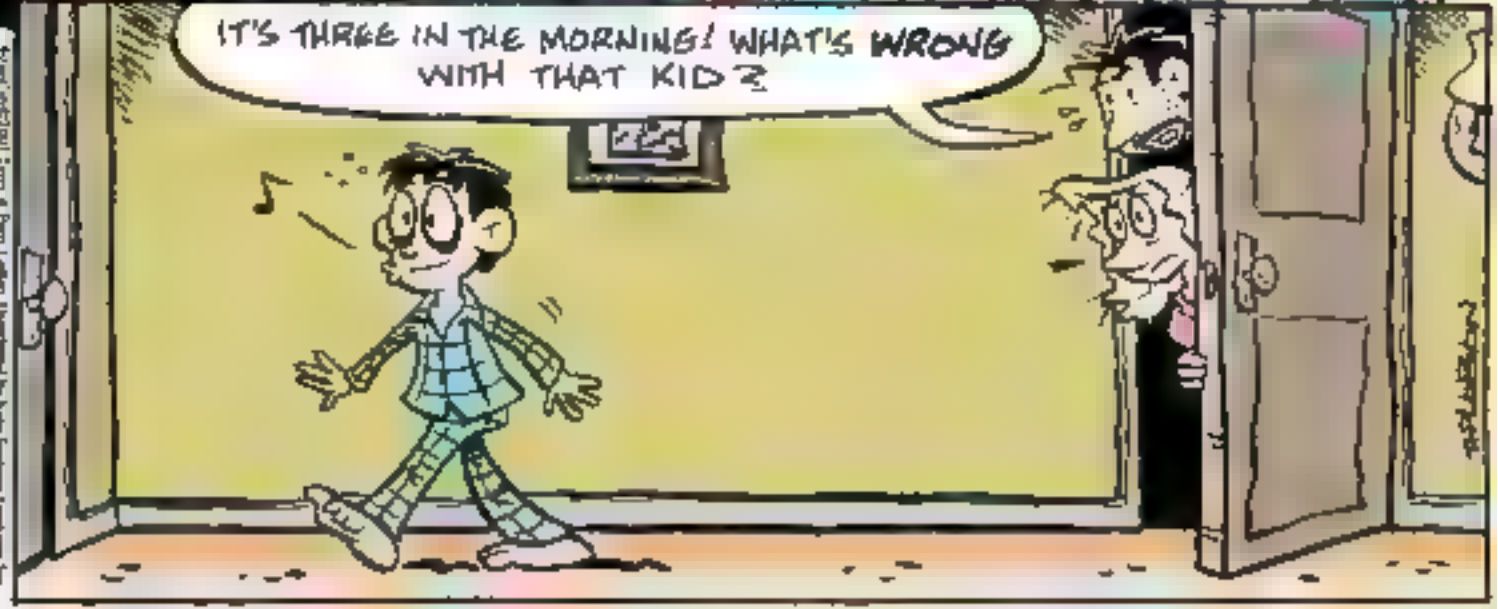


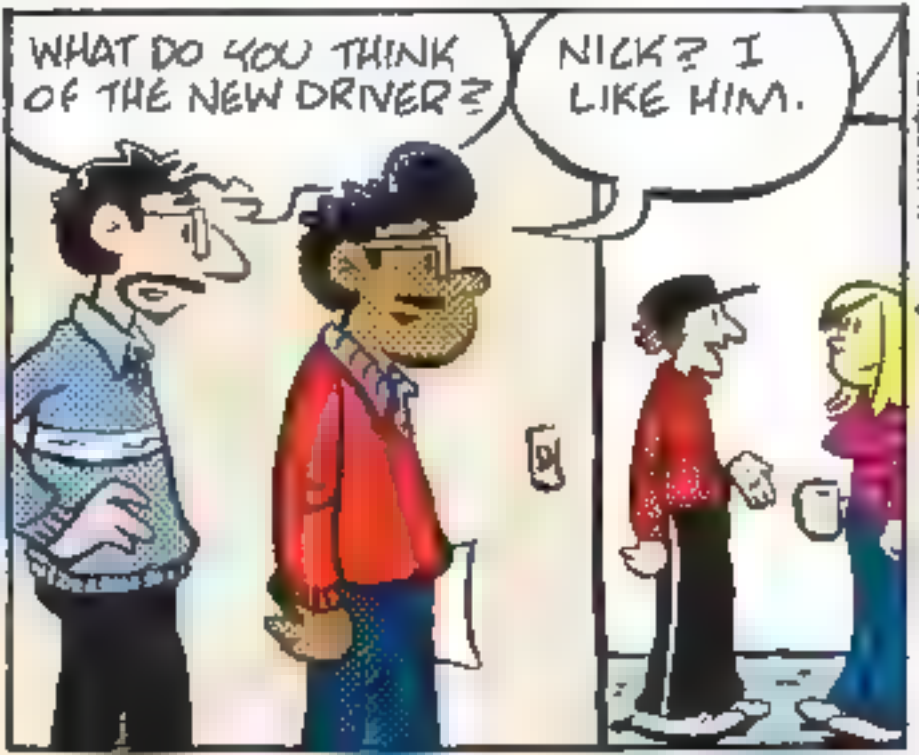

MOM, CAN I TASTE YOUR MOCHA CAPPUCCINO?
I DON'T THINK SO, COLIN. IT'S GOT CAFFEINE IN IT.

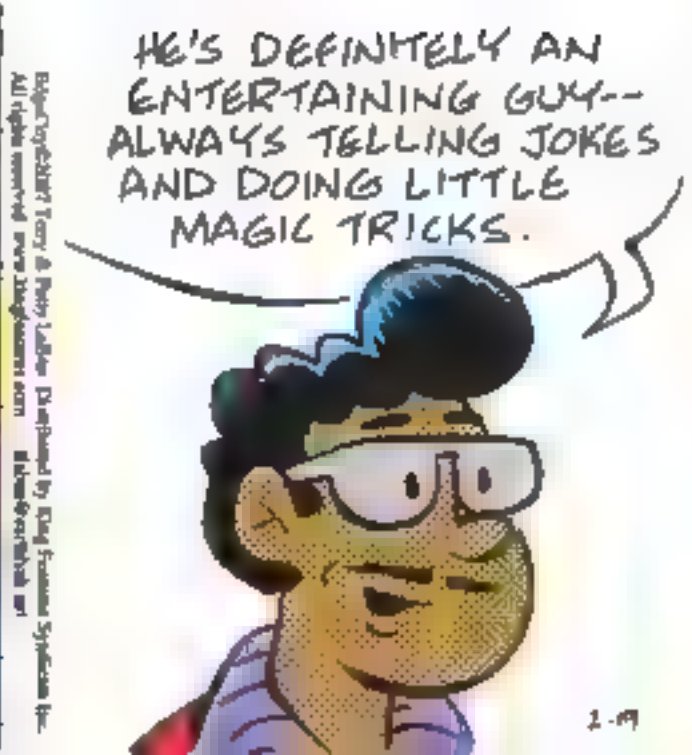
YOUR BEDTIME'S IN A FEW HOURS AND I DON'T WANT YOU STAYING UP ALL NIGHT.
COME ON! ONE LITTLE SIP WON'T DO THAT!

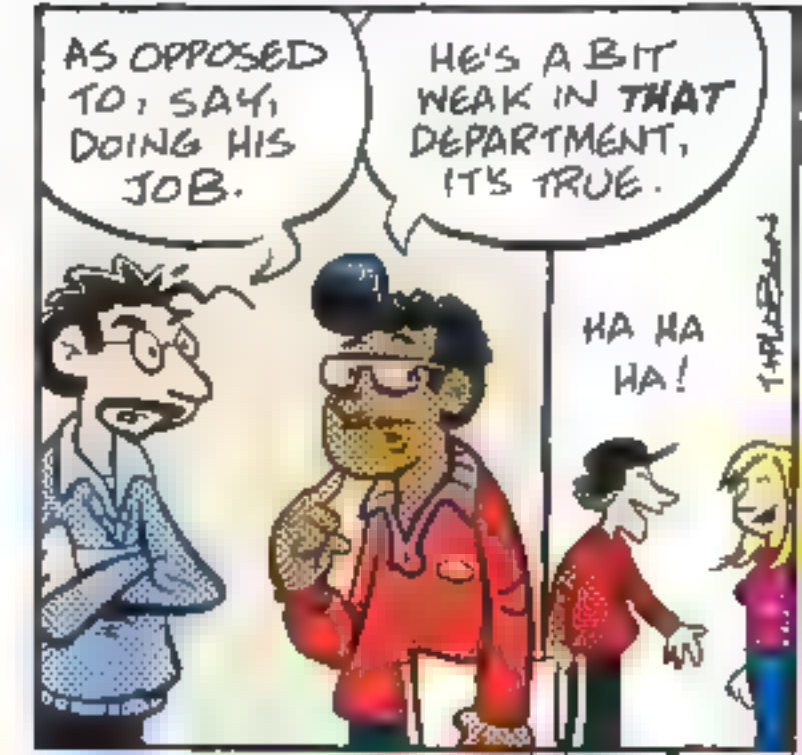

KIDS CAN BE VERY SENSITIVE TO CAFFEINE.
I'VE HAD IT LOTS OF TIMES, MOM! PLEEEASE!

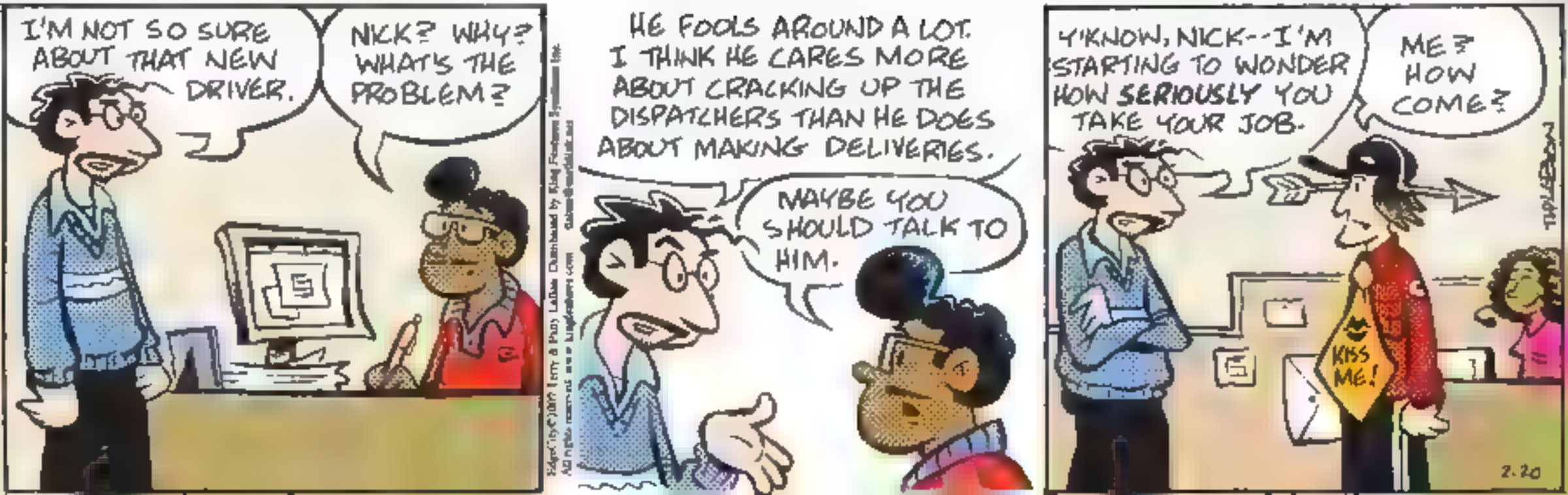
ALL RIGHT--JUST A TASTE AND THAT'S IT!
MMM!
2-18


IT'S THREE IN THE MORNING! WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT KID?

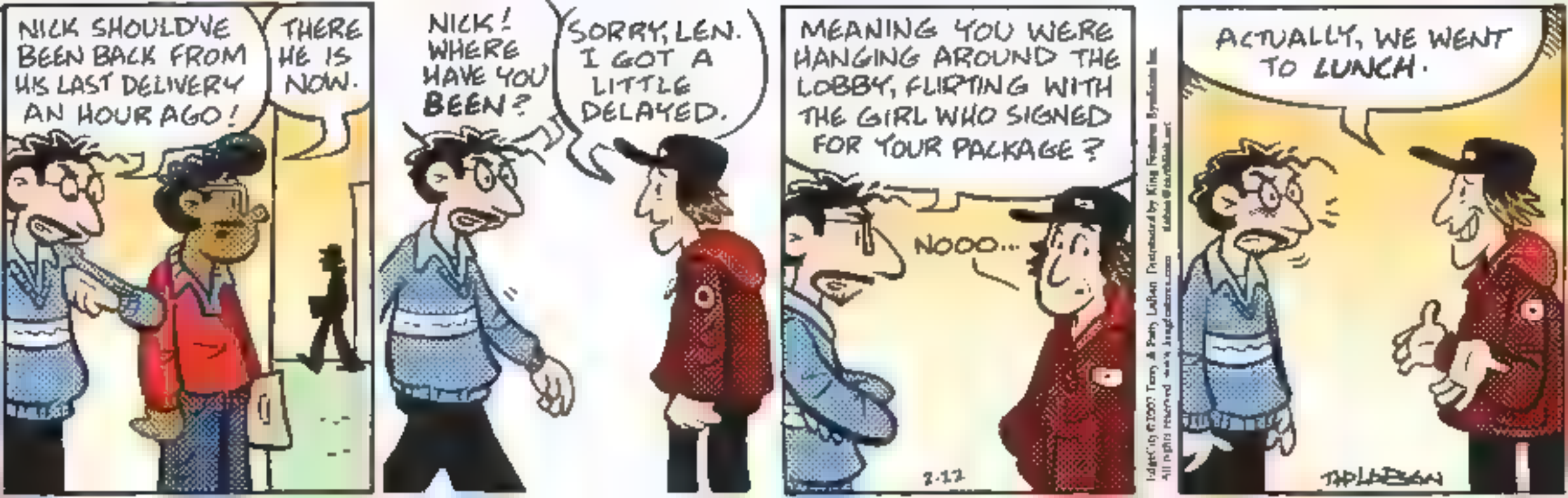

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE NEW DRIVER?
NICK? I LIKE HIM.

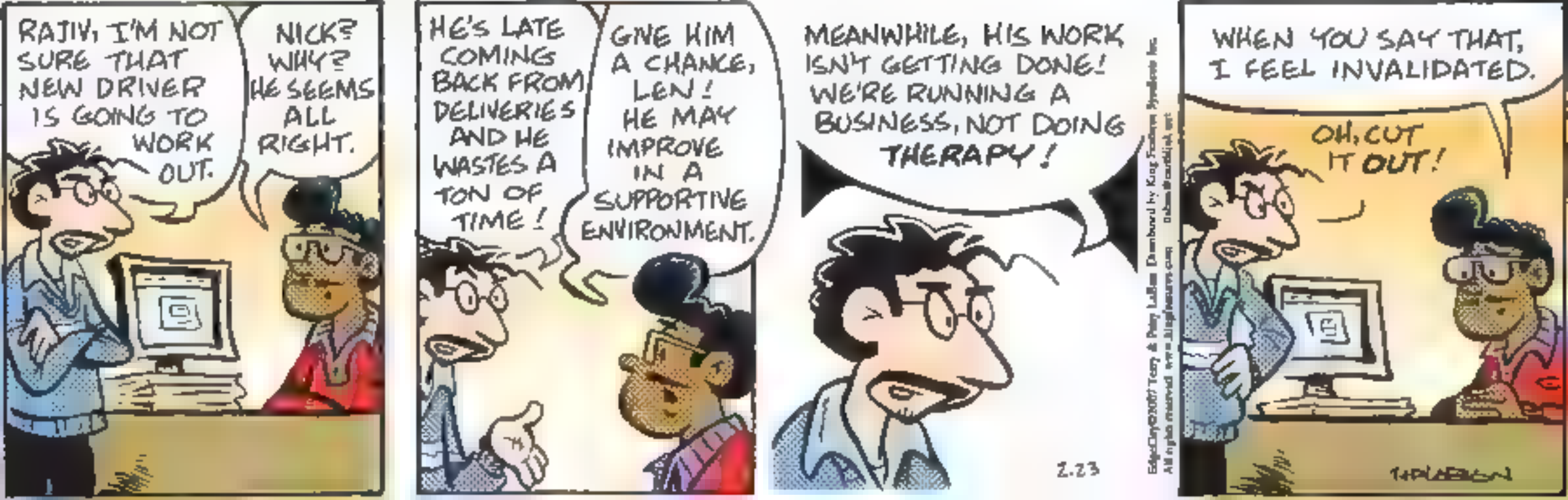

HE'S DEFINITELY AN ENTERTAINING GUY-- ALWAYS TELLING JOKES AND DOING LITTLE MAGIC TRICKS.
2-19

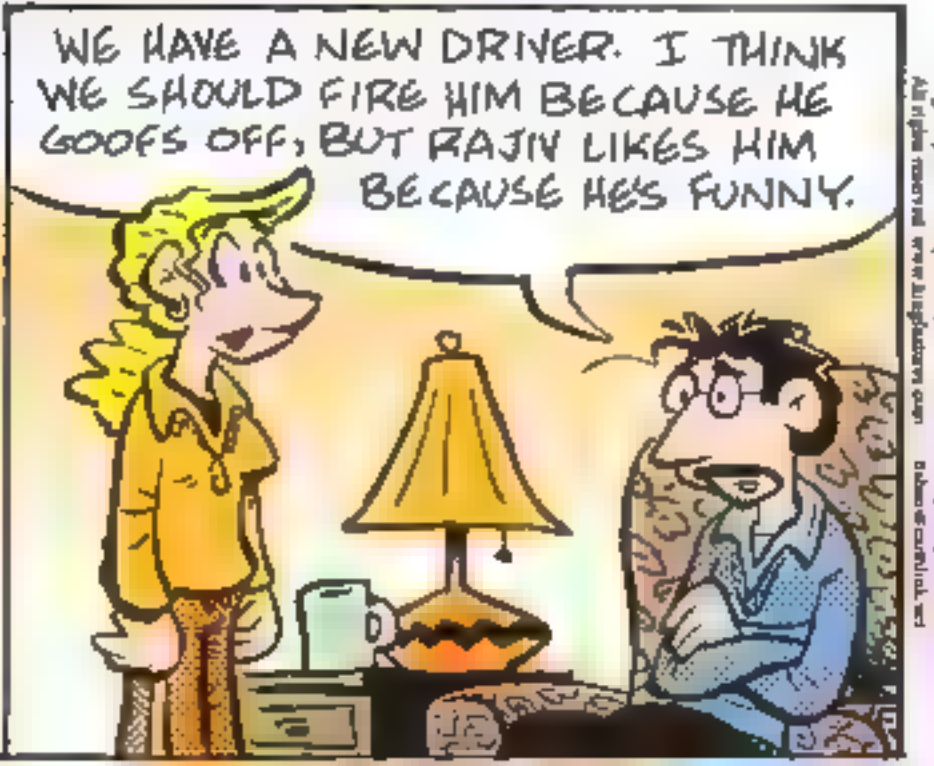

AS OPPOSED TO, SAY, DOING HIS JOB.
HE'S A BIT WEAK IN THAT DEPARTMENT, IT'S TRUE.
HA HA HA!


I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT NEW DRIVER.
NICK? WHY? WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
HE FOOLS AROUND A LOT. I THINK HE CARES MORE ABOUT CRACKING UP THE DISPATCHERS THAN HE DOES ABOUT MAKING DELIVERIES.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD TALK TO HIM.
Y'KNOW, NICK--I'M STARTING TO WONDER HOW SERIOUSLY YOU TAKE YOUR JOB.
ME? HOW COME?
KISS ME!
2-20

NOW NICK IS DOING CARD TRICKS FOR THE RECEPTIONIST!
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY SAY SOMETHING.
NICK, COULD YOU COME HERE A MOMENT?
SURE, LEN!
EVERY TIME I SEE YOU, YOU'RE GOOFING OFF WITH SOMEONE. YOU NEED TO USE YOUR TIME MORE EFFICIENTLY.
I GOT IT.
!!!
OK... WHO WANTS TO PICK A CARD?


NICK SHOULDVE BEEN BACK FROM HIS LAST DELIVERY AN HOUR AGO!
THERE HE IS NOW.
NICK! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
SORRY, LEN. I GOT A LITTLE DELAYED.
MEANING YOU WERE HANGING AROUND THE LOBBY, FLIRTING WITH THE GIRL WHO SIGNED FOR YOUR PACKAGE?
NOOO...
2-12
ACTUALLY, WE WENT TO LUNCH.
TMLARSON


RAJIV, I'M NOT SURE THAT NEW DRIVER IS GOING TO WORK OUT.
NICK? WHY? HE SEEMS ALL RIGHT.
HE'S LATE COMING BACK FROM DELIVERIES AND HE WASTES A TON OF TIME!
GIVE HIM A CHANCE, LEN! HE MAY IMPROVE IN A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT.
MEANWHILE, HIS WORK ISN'T GETTING DONE! WE'RE RUNNING A BUSINESS, NOT DOING THERAPY!
2.23
WHEN YOU SAY THAT, I FEEL INVALIDATED.
OH, CUT IT OUT!



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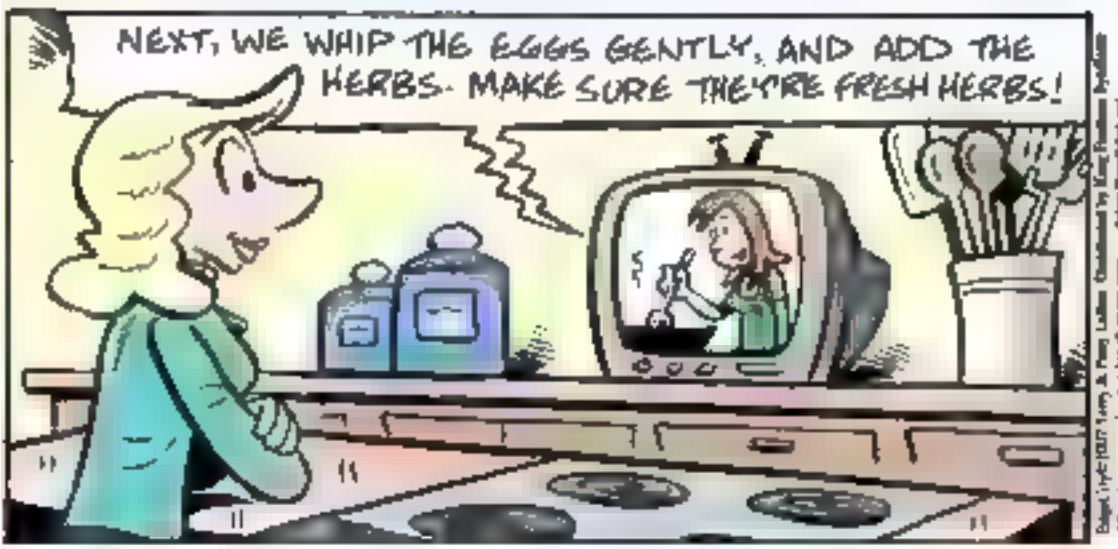
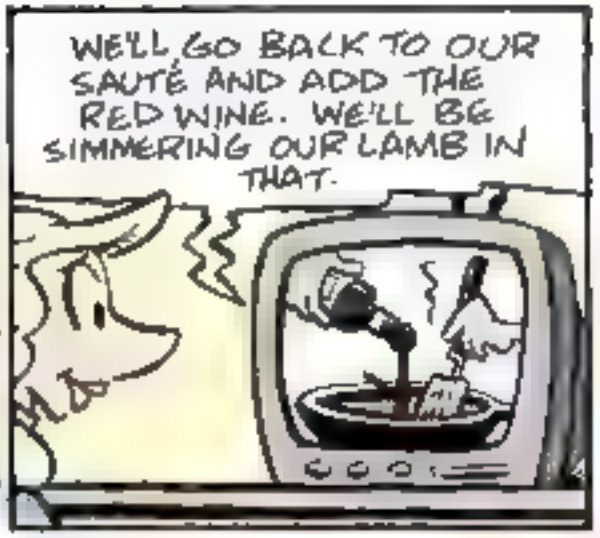
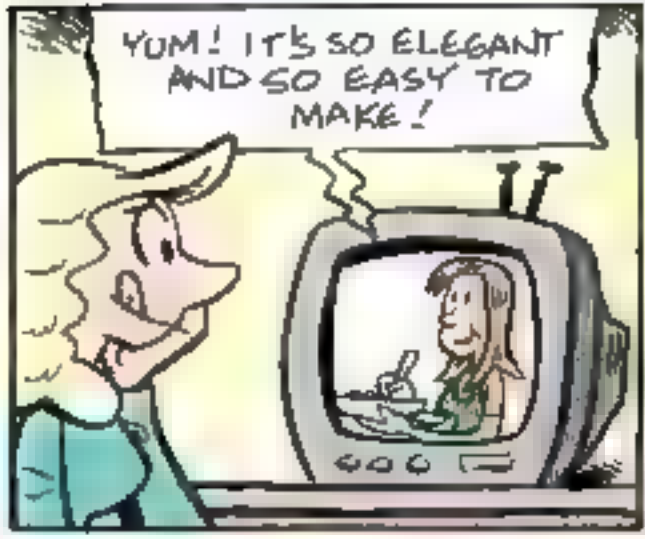

NEXT, WE WHIP THE EGGS GENTLY, AND ADD THE HERBS. MAKE SURE THEY'RE FRESH HERBS!


WE'LL GO BACK TO OUR SAUTÉ AND ADD THE RED WINE. WE'LL BE SIMMERING OUR LAMB IN THAT.


YUM! IT'S SO ELEGANT AND SO EASY TO MAKE!

DING DONG!
LEN! COLIN! CARLY! DINNER!

SIGH!
PIZZA

NICK IS LATE GETTING BACK FROM HIS DELIVERIES AGAIN.
HE'S PROBABLY STUCK IN TRAFFIC. GIVE HIM A CALL.
NICK! IT'S LEN! WHAT'S TAKING YOU SO LONG?
ER...SORRY, LEN! I'M STUCK IN TRAFFIC!
♪TEE HEE!♪
SHH! IT'S MY BOSS!
2-26
WELL, AT LEAST HE'S GOT COMPANY!
FLIP!

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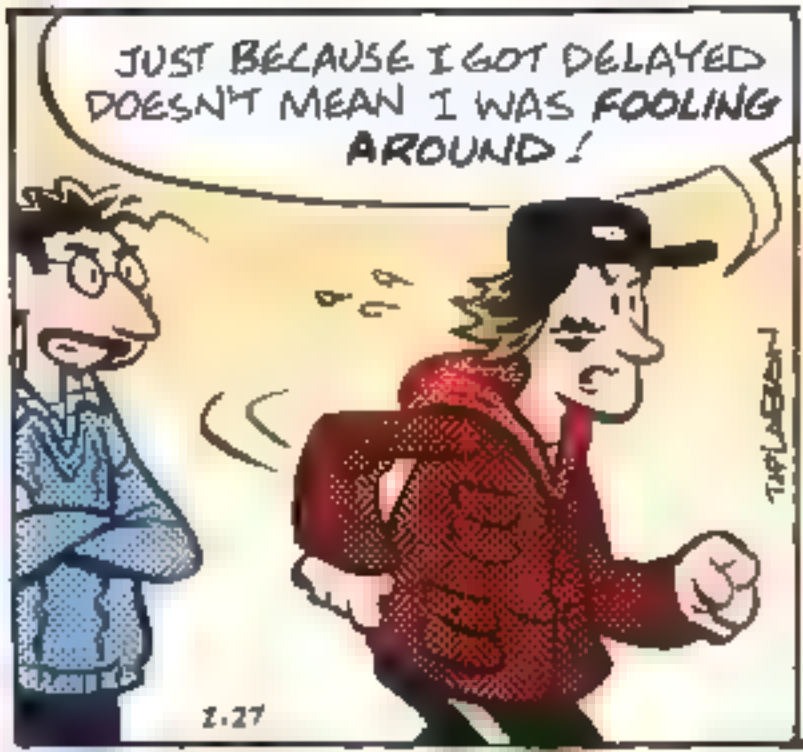

YOU SENT NICK HOME?

HE WAS BACK LATE AGAIN, RAJIV! I'VE HAD IT!

THE GUY SPENDS ALL HIS TIME GOOFING OFF AND FLIRTING WITH EVERY WOMAN HE SEES! I JUST CAN'T...

LEN! RAJIV!

2-28

THE RECEPTIONIST AT WELTZ & KLEIN CALLED TO HAVE A PACKAGE PICKED UP. WHERE'S NICK?

I JUST SENT HIM HOME.

UH-OH -- SHE SPECIFICALLY ASKED FOR *HIM* TO DO IT!

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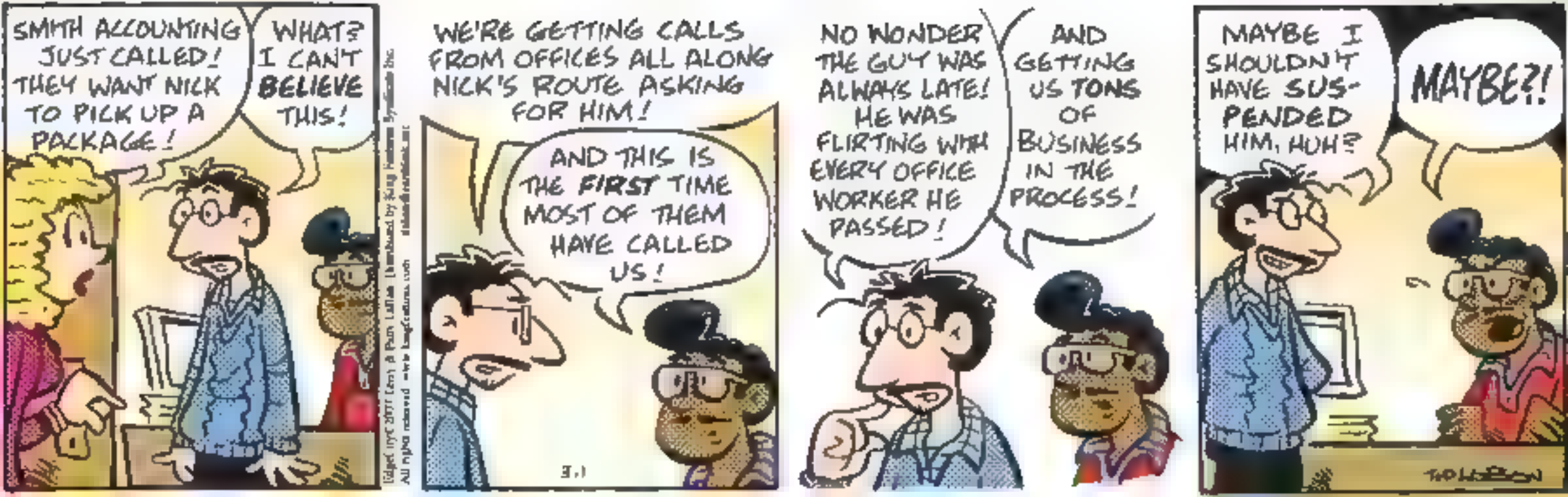
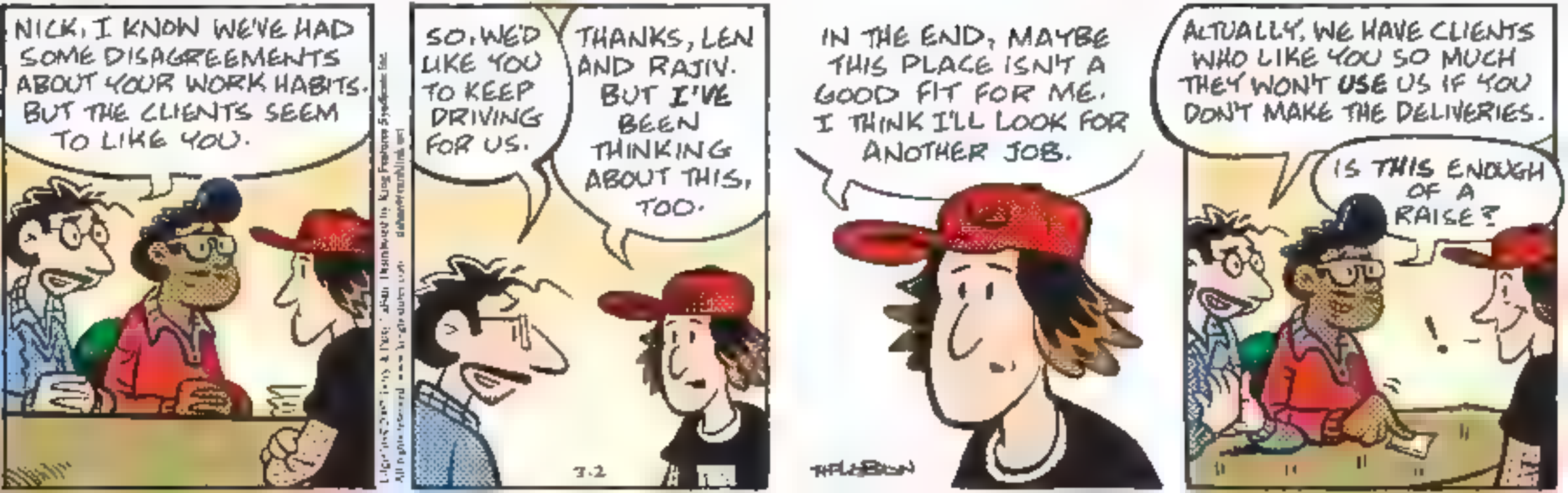
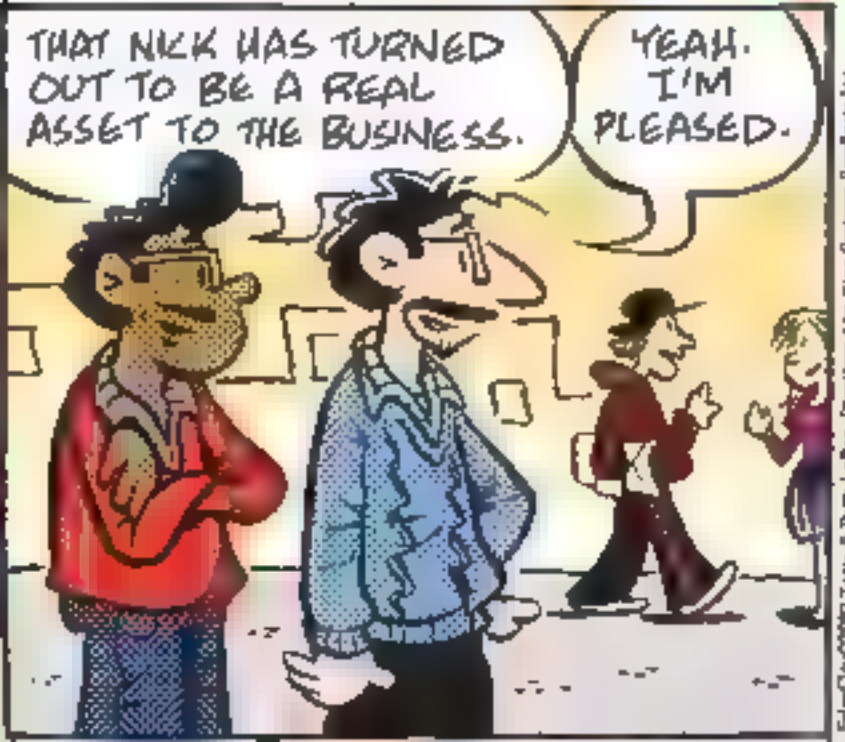
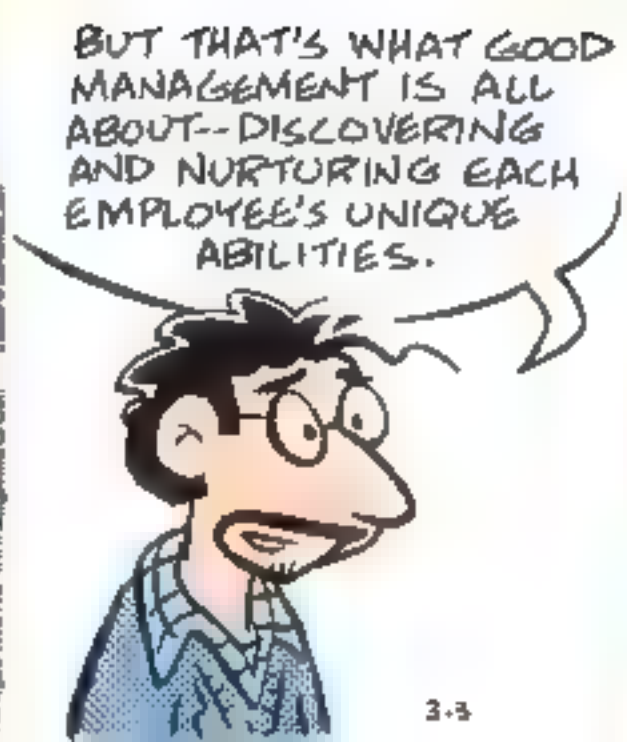

SMITH ACCOUNTING JUST CALLED! THEY WANT NICK TO PICK UP A PACKAGE!
WHAT? I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
WE'RE GETTING CALLS FROM OFFICES ALL ALONG NICK'S ROUTE ASKING FOR HIM!
AND THIS IS THE FIRST TIME MOST OF THEM HAVE CALLED US!
NO WONDER THE GUY WAS ALWAYS LATE! HE WAS FLIRTING WITH EVERY OFFICE WORKER HE PASSED!
AND GETTING US TONS OF BUSINESS IN THE PROCESS!
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE SUSPENDED HIM, HUH?
MAYBE?!


NICK, I KNOW WE'VE HAD SOME DISAGREEMENTS ABOUT YOUR WORK HABITS. BUT THE CLIENTS SEEM TO LIKE YOU.
SO, WE'D LIKE YOU TO KEEP DRIVING FOR US.
THANKS, LEN AND RAJIV. BUT I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS, TOO.
3-2
IN THE END, MAYBE THIS PLACE ISN'T A GOOD FIT FOR ME. I THINK I'LL LOOK FOR ANOTHER JOB.
ACTUALLY, WE HAVE CLIENTS WHO LIKE YOU SO MUCH THEY WON'T USE US IF YOU DON'T MAKE THE DELIVERIES.
IS THIS ENOUGH OF A RAISE?





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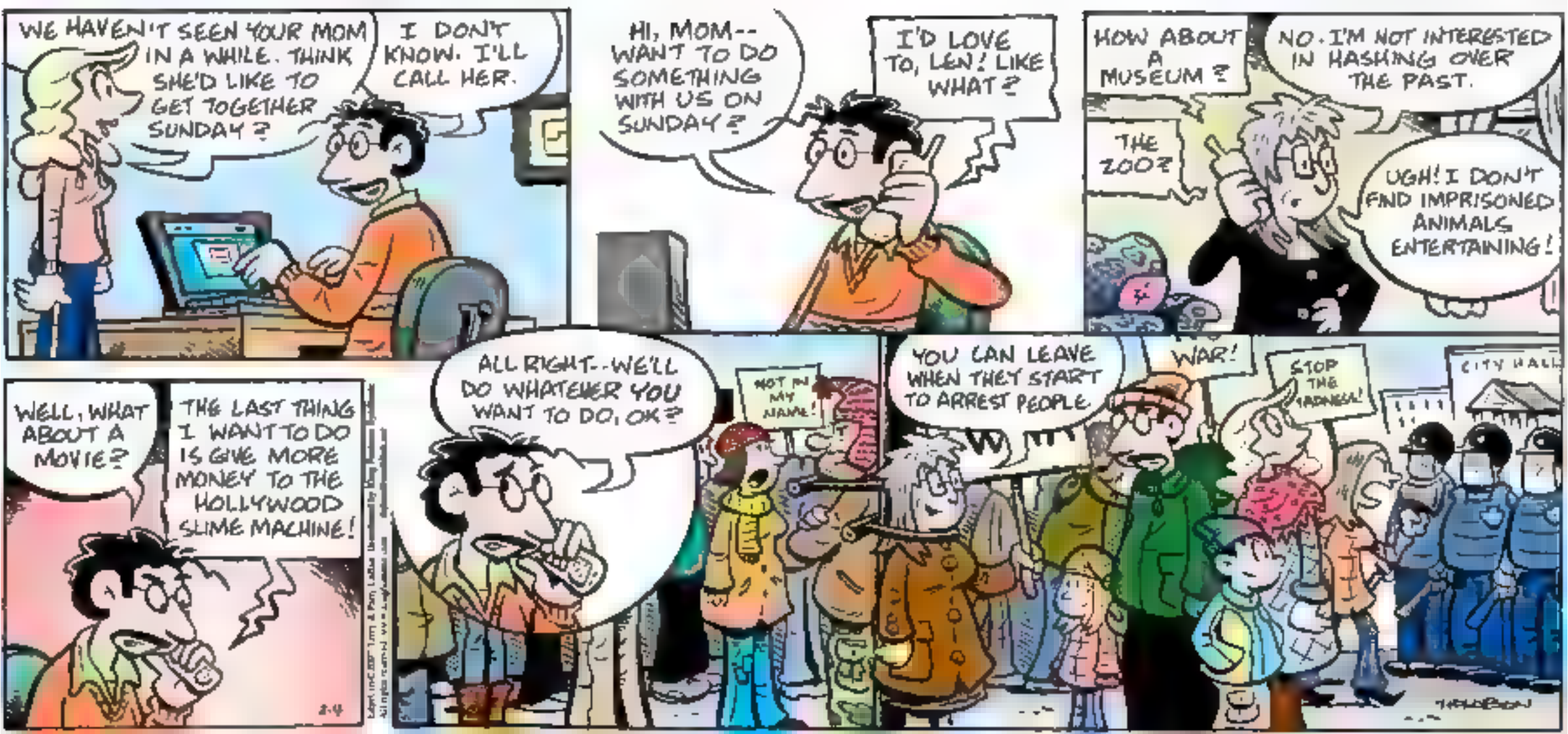
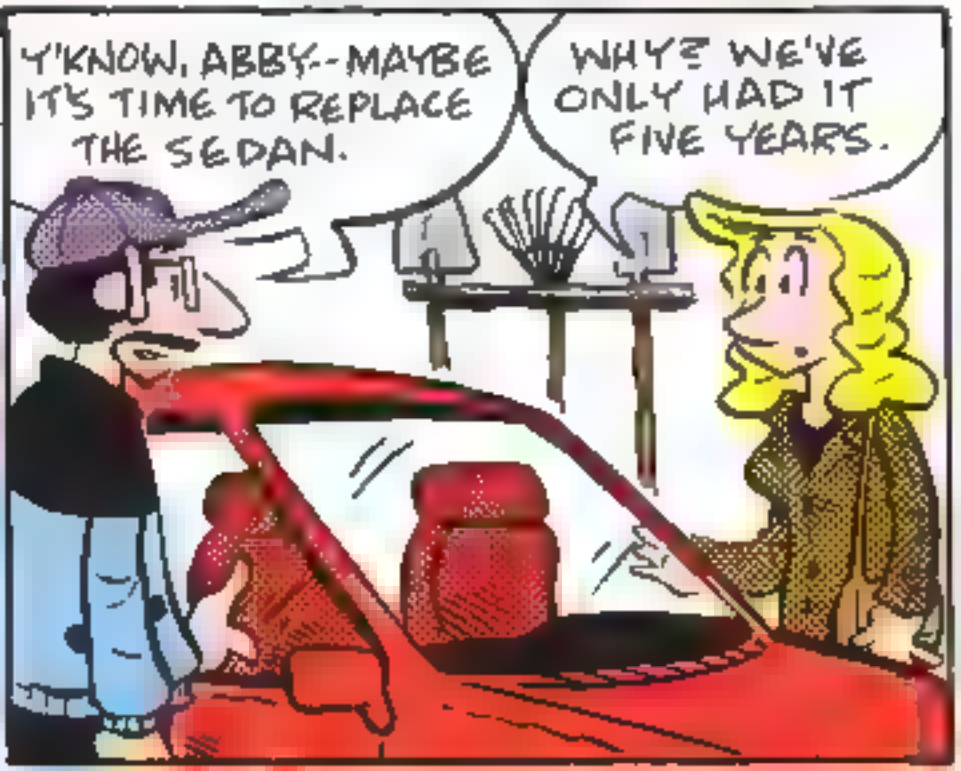

WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOUR MOM IN A WHILE. THINK SHE'D LIKE TO GET TOGETHER SUNDAY?
I DON'T KNOW. I'LL CALL HER.
HI, MOM-- WANT TO DO SOMETHING WITH US ON SUNDAY?
I'D LOVE TO, LEN! LIKE WHAT?
HOW ABOUT A MUSEUM?
NO. I'M NOT INTERESTED IN HASHING OVER THE PAST.
THE ZOO?
UGH! I DON'T FIND IMPRISONED ANIMALS ENTERTAINING!
WELL, WHAT ABOUT A MOVIE?
THE LAST THING I WANT TO DO IS GIVE MORE MONEY TO THE HOLLYWOOD SLIME MACHINE!
ALL RIGHT--WE'LL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT TO DO, OK?
NOT IN MY NAME!
YOU CAN LEAVE WHEN THEY START TO ARREST PEOPLE.
WAR!
STOP THE MADNESS!
CITY HALL



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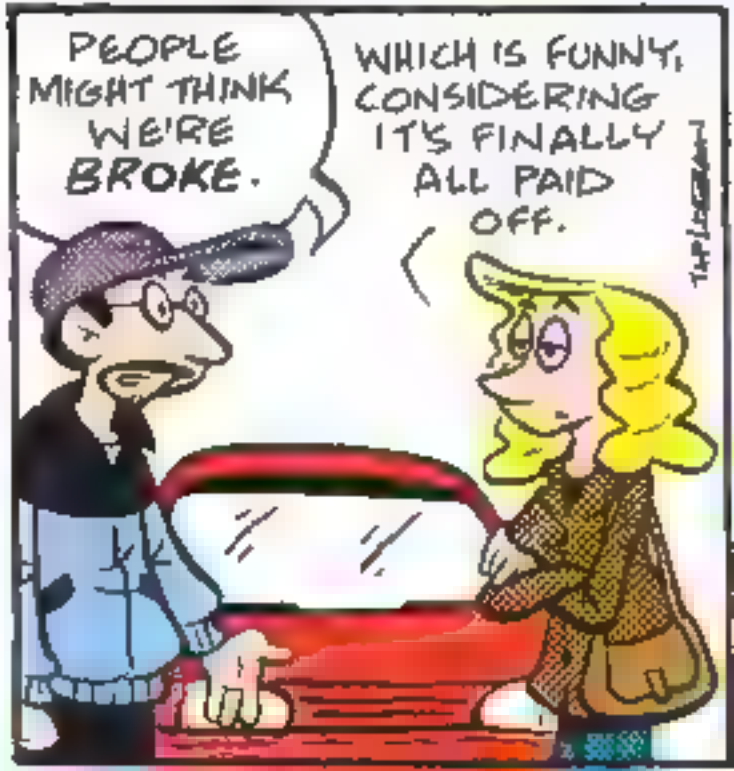
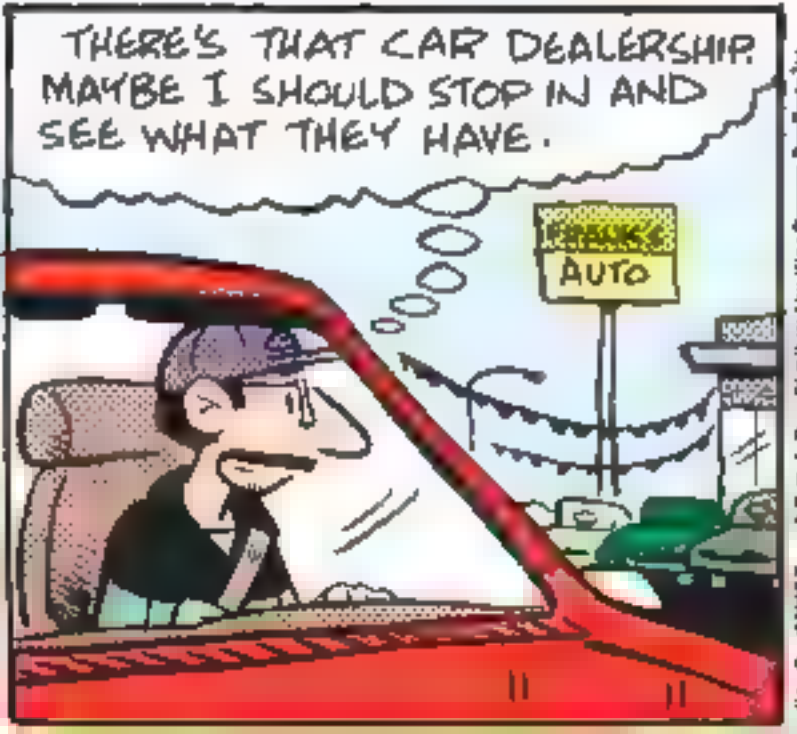


IF WE BOUGHT A CAR, ABBY, WHAT KIND WOULD YOU WANT?
I TOLD YOU, LEN. WE DON'T NEED TO BUY A CAR THIS YEAR.
I KNOW. BUT WHAT WOULD YOU WANT IF WE DID?
WE'RE NOT GETTING ONE, SO WHAT'S THE POINT?
I THINK I'D LIKE SOMETHING KIND OF SPORTY.
LEN, READ MY LIPS: NO NEW AUTOS!
3-6



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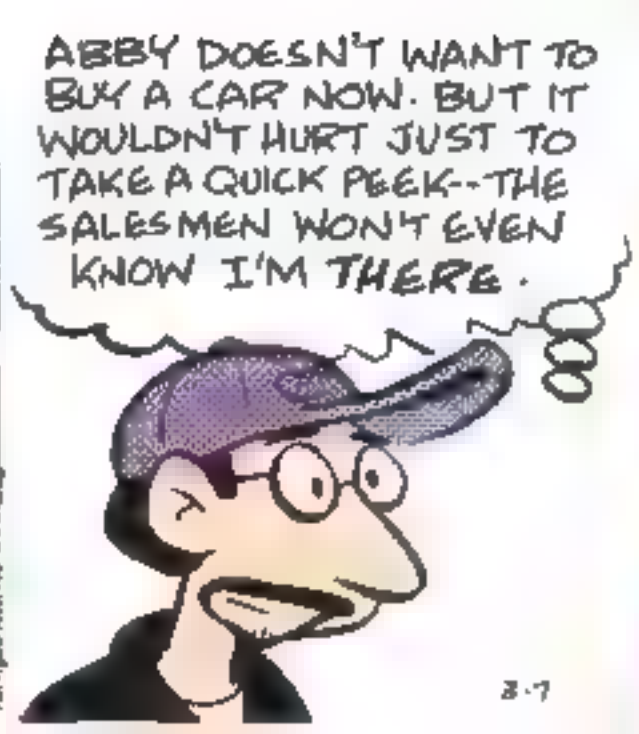
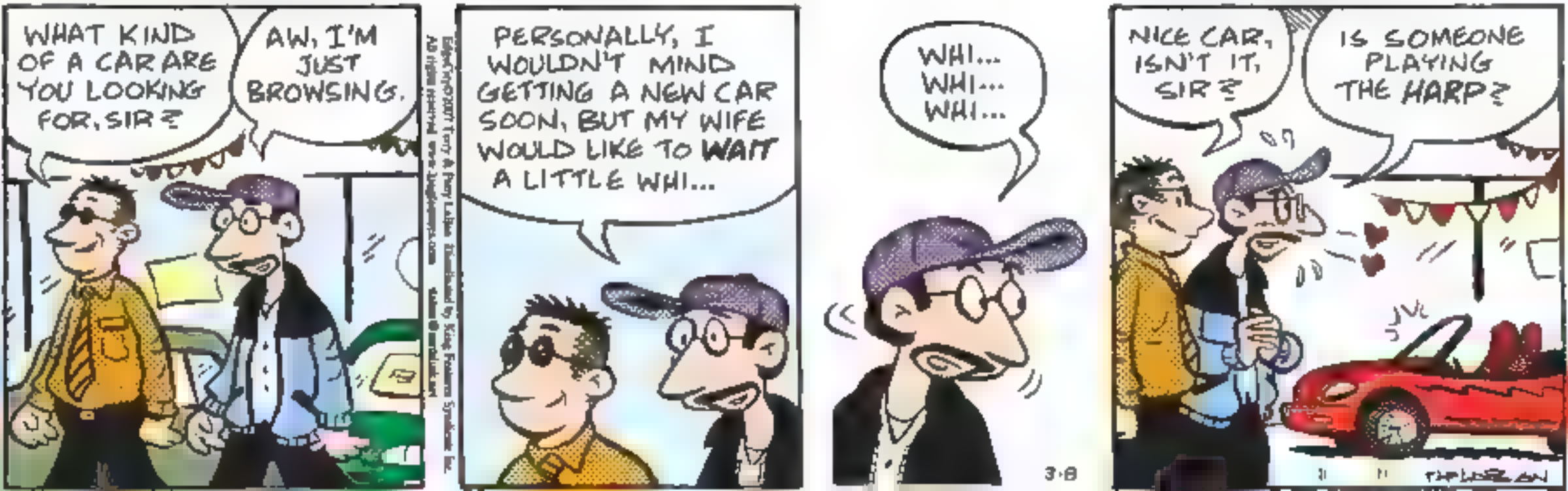
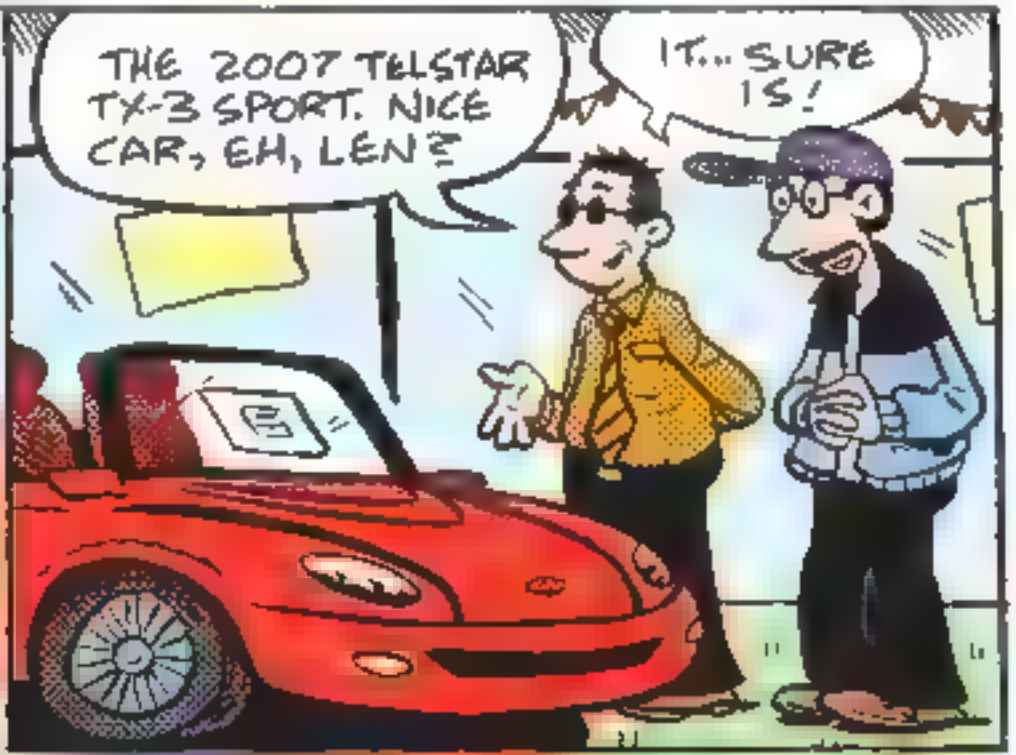
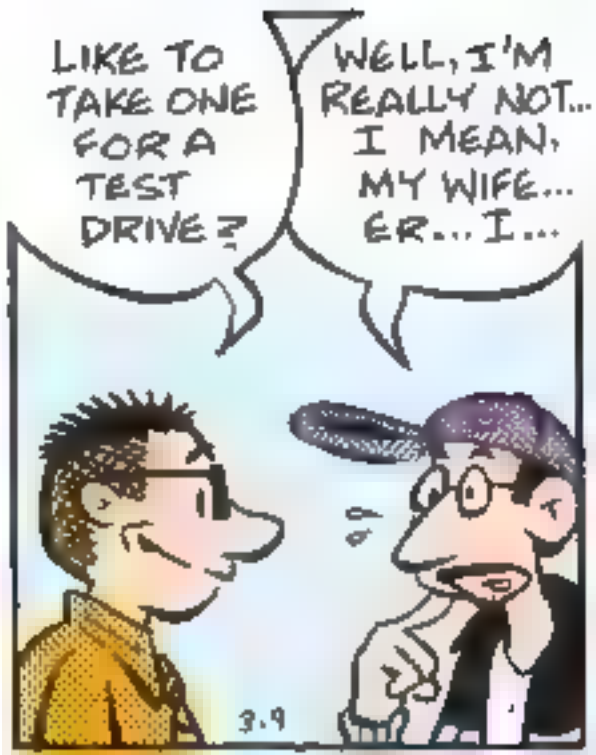



WHAT KIND OF A CAR ARE YOU LOOKING FOR, SIR?
AW, I'M JUST BROWSING.
PERSONALLY, I WOULDN'T MIND GETTING A NEW CAR SOON, BUT MY WIFE WOULD LIKE TO WAIT A LITTLE WHI...
WHI... WHI... WHI...
3-8
NICE CAR, ISN'T IT, SIR?
IS SOMEONE PLAYING THE HARP?





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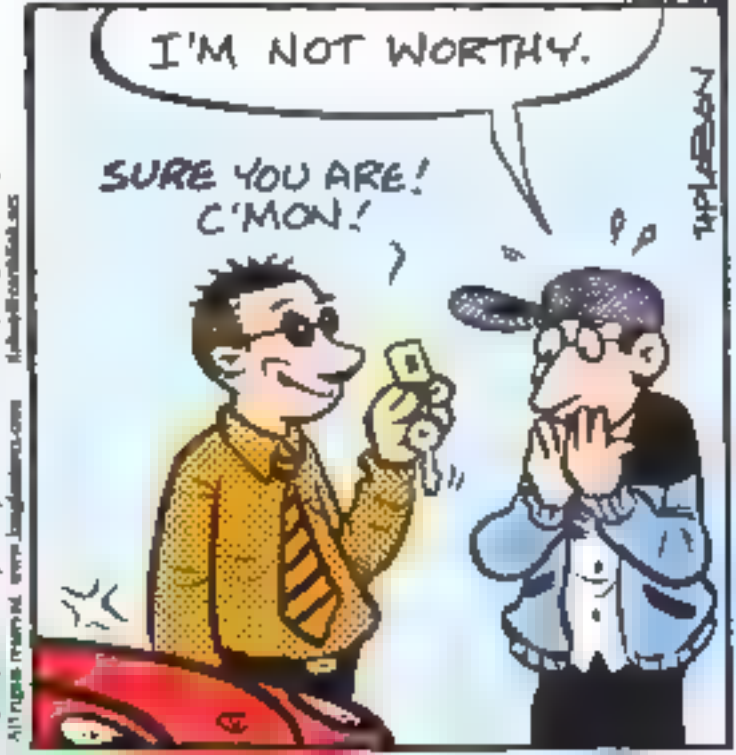
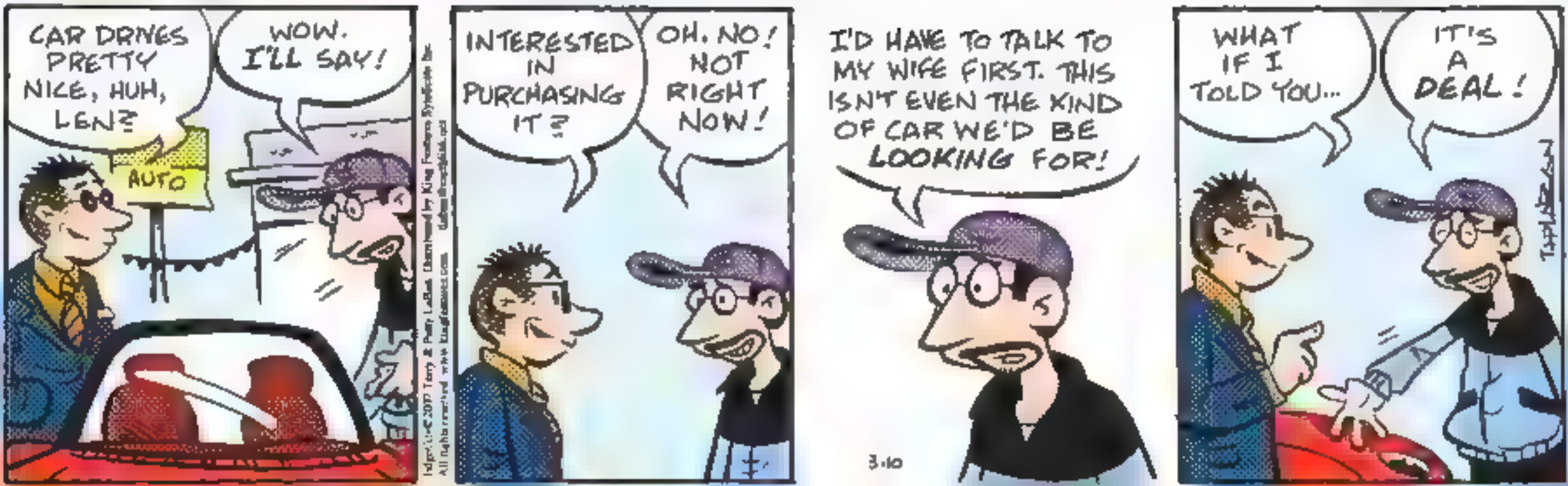
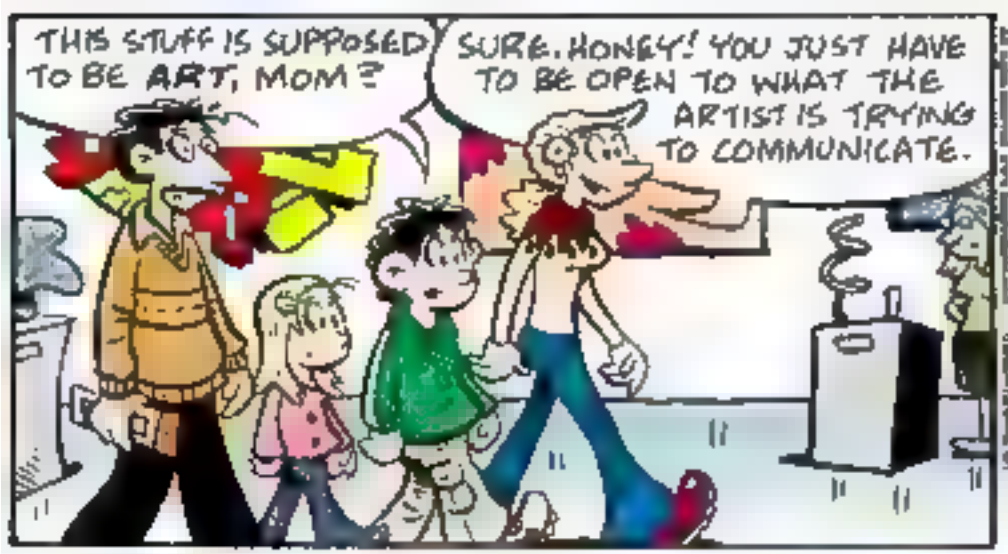
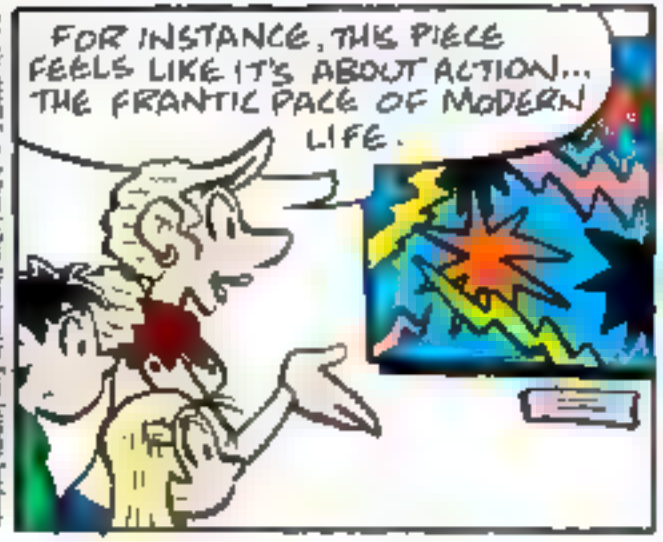
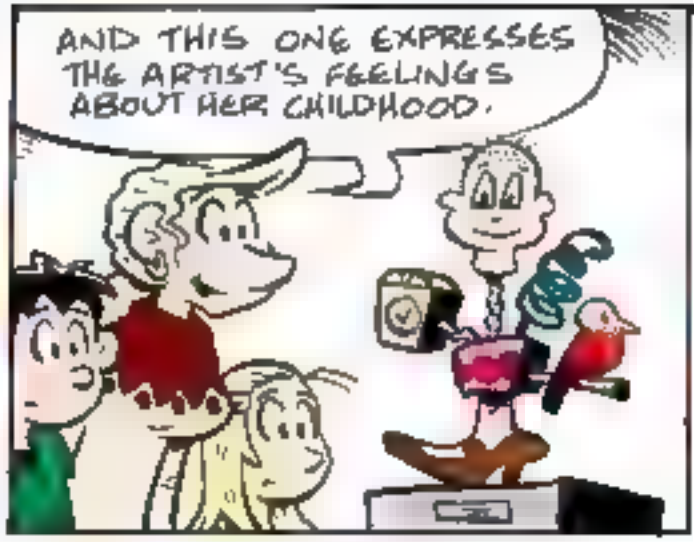
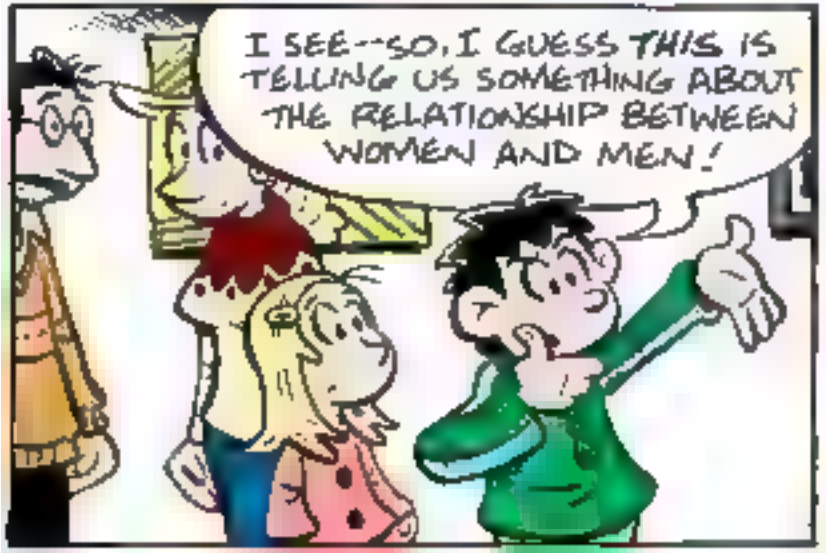



CAR DRIVES PRETTY NICE, HUH, LEN?
AUTO
WOW. I'LL SAY!
INTERESTED IN PURCHASING IT?
OH, NO! NOT RIGHT NOW!
I'D HAVE TO TALK TO MY WIFE FIRST. THIS ISN'T EVEN THE KIND OF CAR WE'D BE LOOKING FOR!
3-10
WHAT IF I TOLD YOU...
IT'S A DEAL!

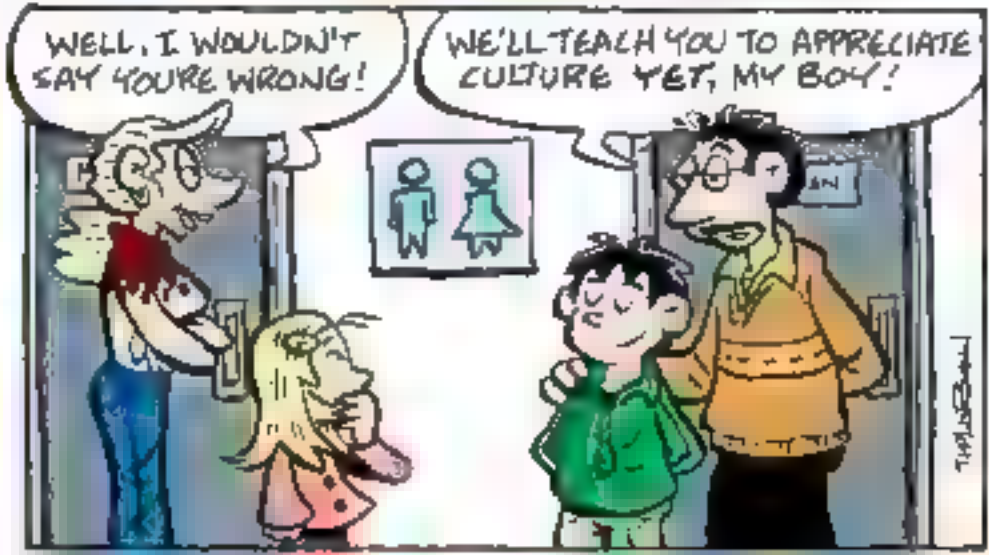

THIS STUFF IS SUPPOSED TO BE ART, MOM?
SURE, HONEY! YOU JUST HAVE TO BE OPEN TO WHAT THE ARTIST IS TRYING TO COMMUNICATE.

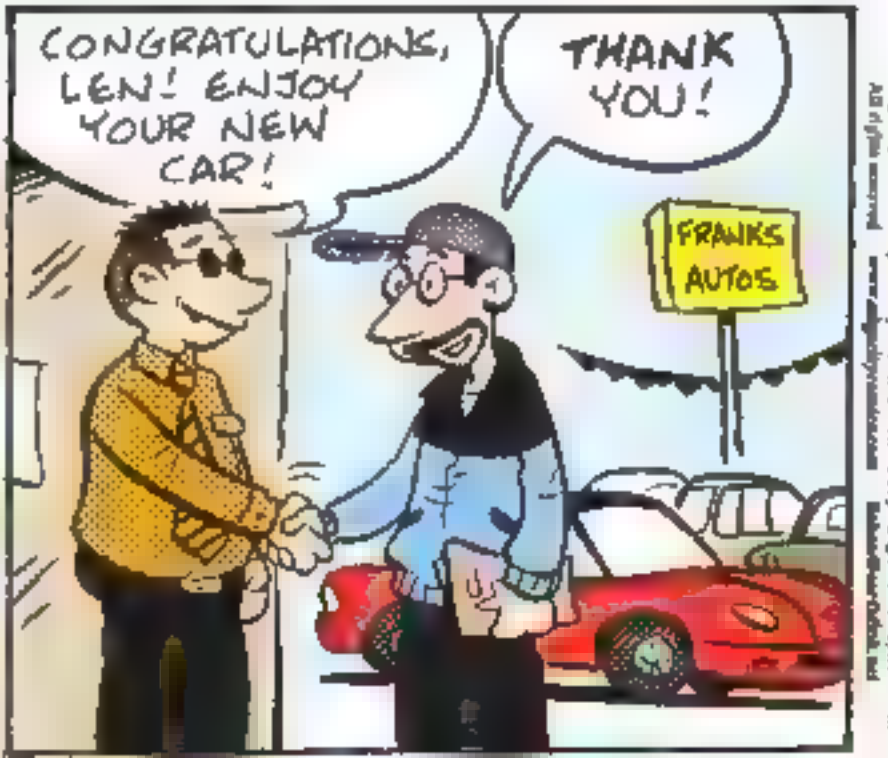

FOR INSTANCE, THIS PIECE FEELS LIKE IT'S ABOUT ACTION... THE FRANTIC PACE OF MODERN LIFE.


AND THIS ONE EXPRESSES THE ARTIST'S FEELINGS ABOUT HER CHILDHOOD.


I SEE--SO, I GUESS THIS IS TELLING US SOMETHING ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN!

'SCUSE ME.


WELL, I WOULDN'T SAY YOU'RE WRONG!
WE'LL TEACH YOU TO APPRECIATE CULTURE YET, MY BOY!



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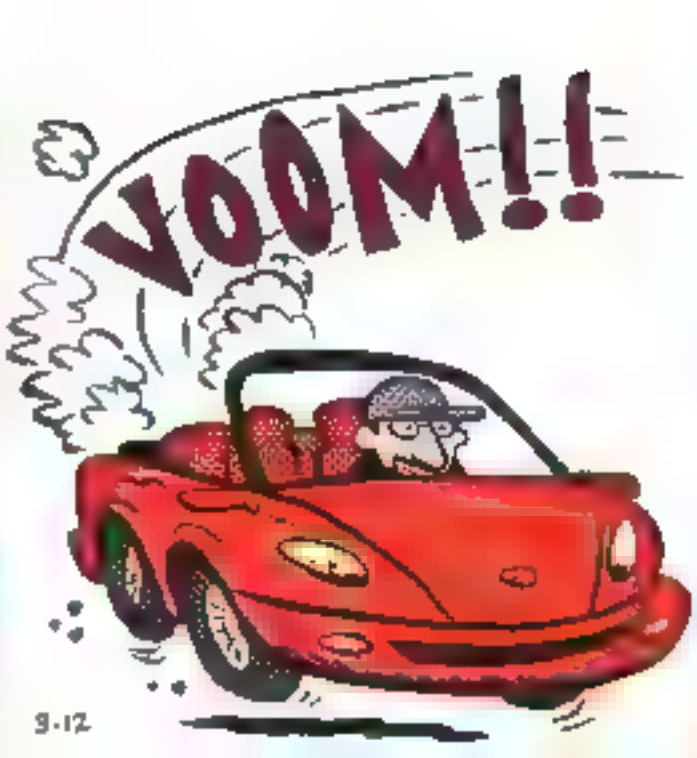
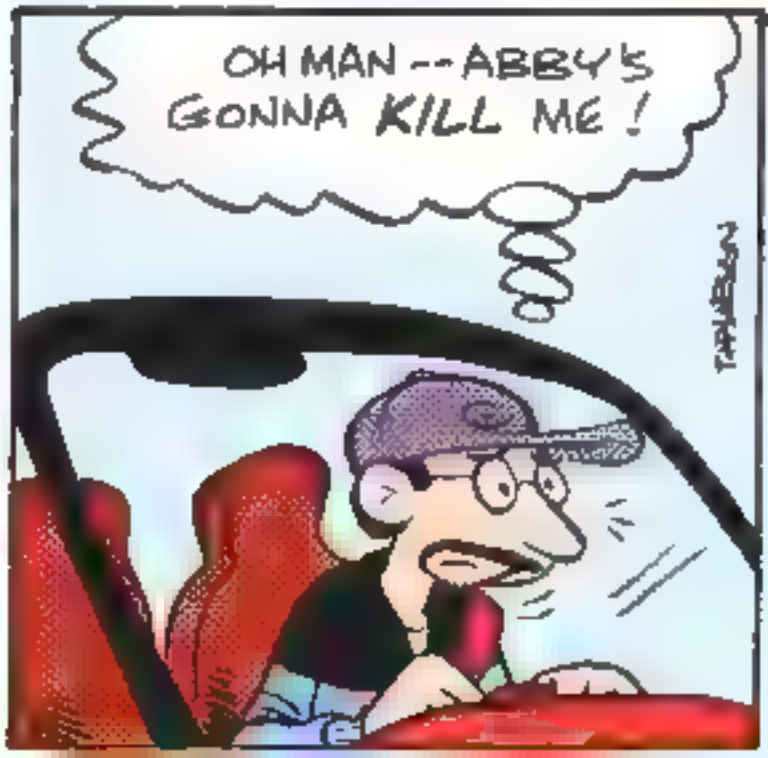
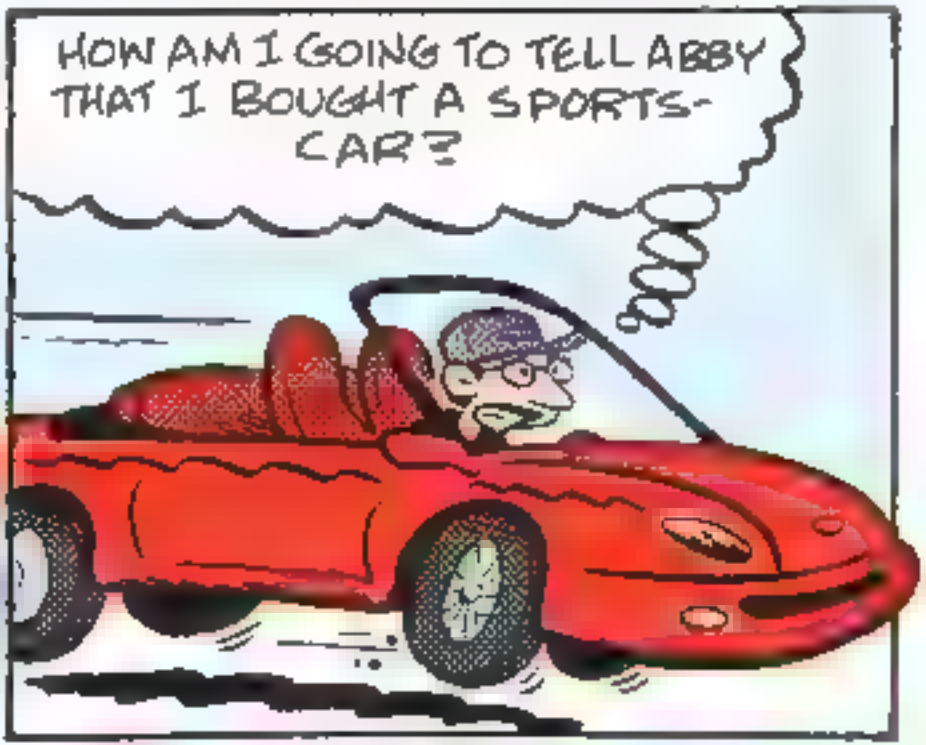
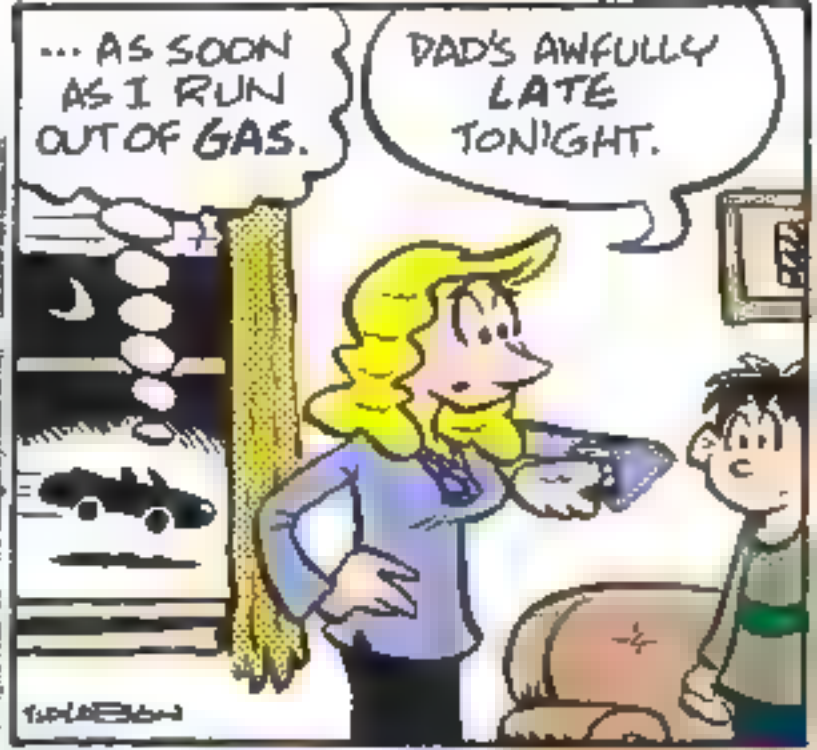
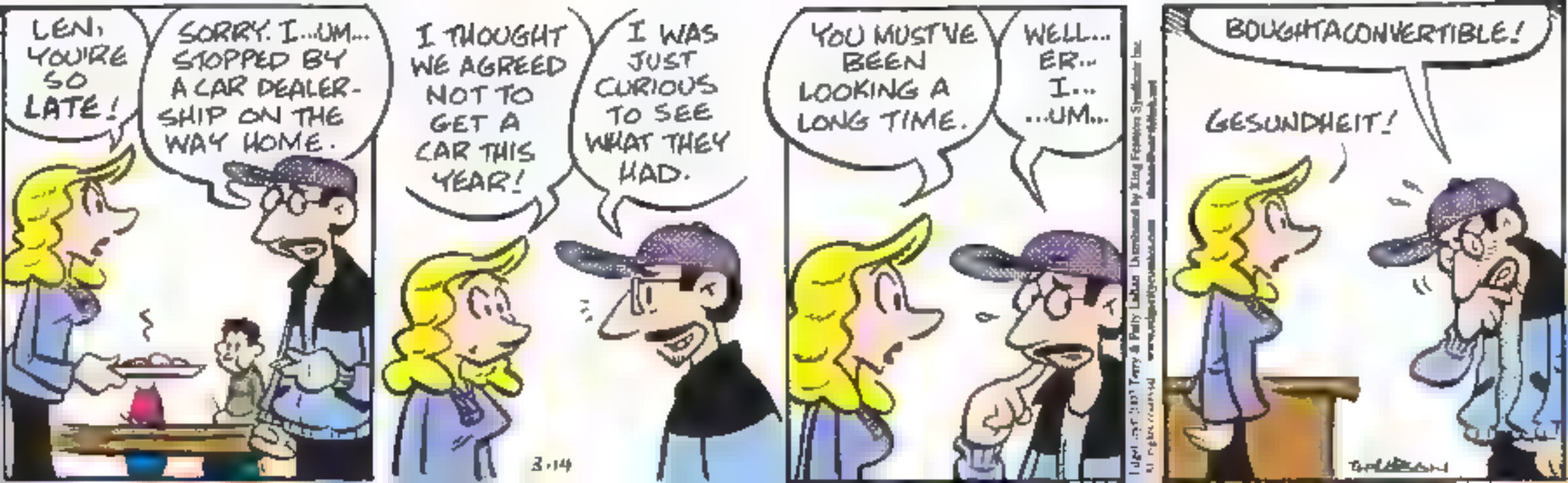


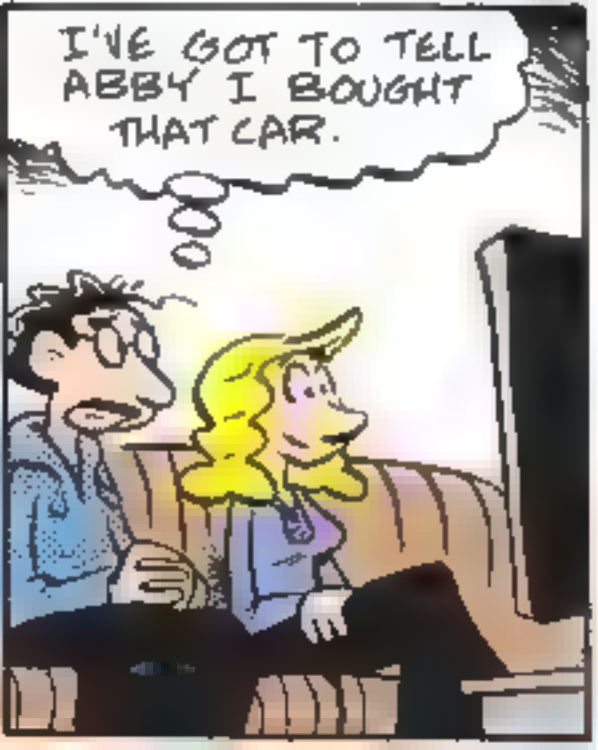



HOW AM I GOING TO TELL ABBY THAT I BOUGHT A SPORTS-CAR?

I GUESS ALL I CAN DO IS GO IN THERE AND 'FESS UP LIKE A MAN...
3-13


... AS SOON AS I RUN OUT OF GAS.
DAD'S AWFULLY LATE TONIGHT.


LEN, YOU'RE SO LATE!
SORRY. I...UM... STOPPED BY A CAR DEALER-SHIP ON THE WAY HOME.
I THOUGHT WE AGREED NOT TO GET A CAR THIS YEAR!
I WAS JUST CURIOUS TO SEE WHAT THEY HAD.
YOU MUST'VE BEEN LOOKING A LONG TIME.
WELL... ER... I... ...UM...
BOUGHTACONVERTIBLE!
GESUNDHEIT!



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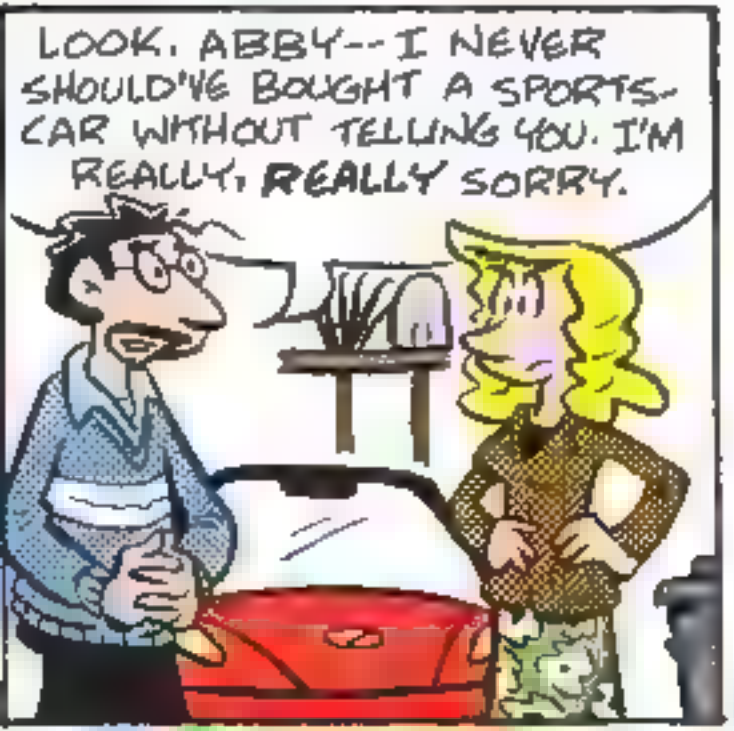
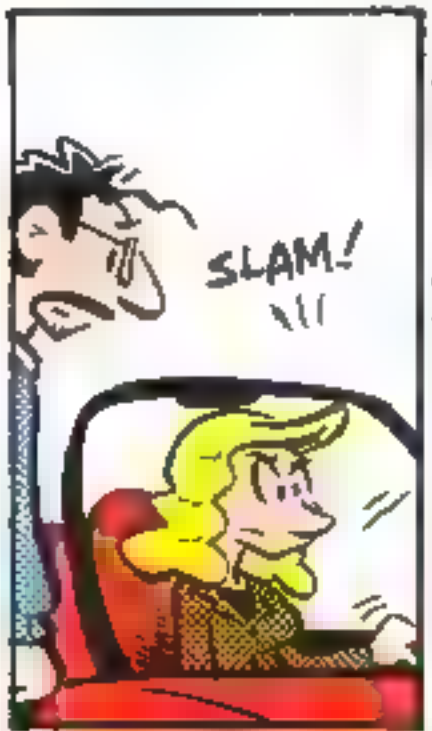
YOU WENT OUT YESTERDAY AND BOUGHT A CAR?!
I DIDN'T INTEND TO, ABBY! I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF.

NOT ONLY DID WE AGREE WE WOULDN'T GET A CAR THIS YEAR...
...BUT A CONVERTIBLE IS TOTALLY IMPRACTICAL!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DID THIS, LEN. I'M REALLY DISAPPOINTED.
I... I KNOW. AND I'M SORRY.

BUT PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME TAKE IT BACK!
LET'S NOT MAKE THIS ANY HARDER.





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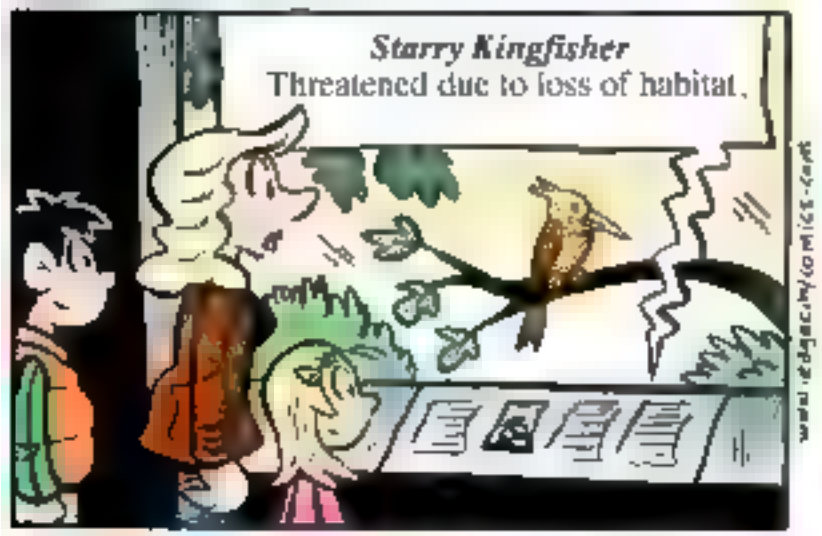
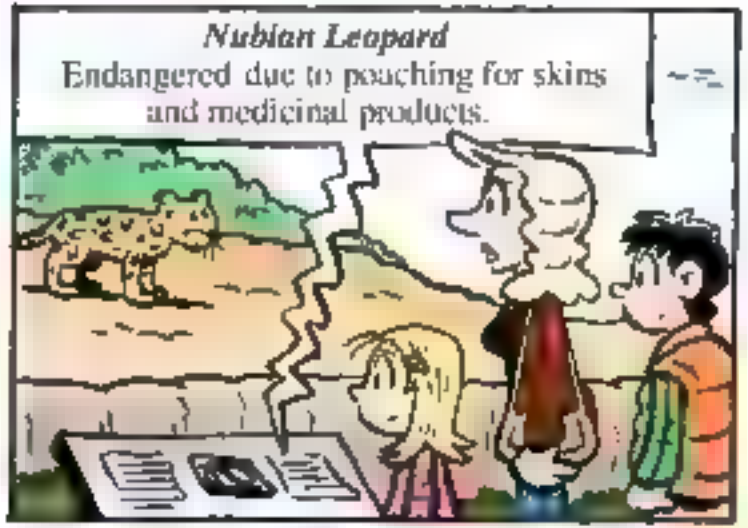
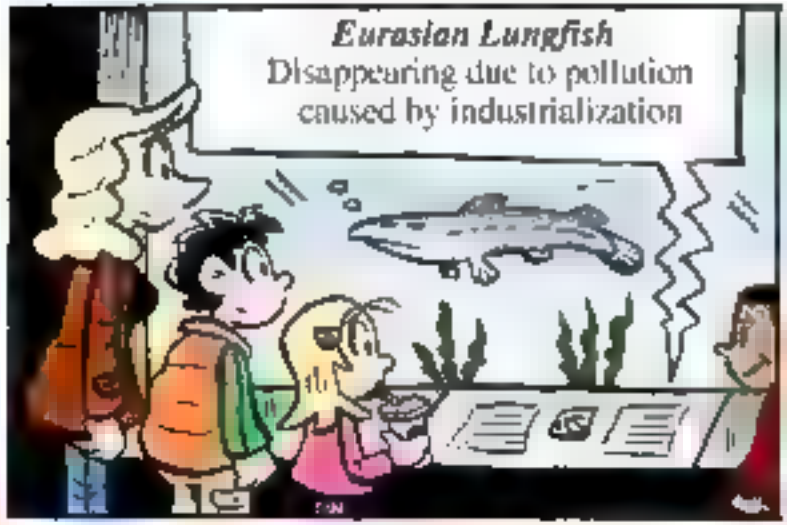
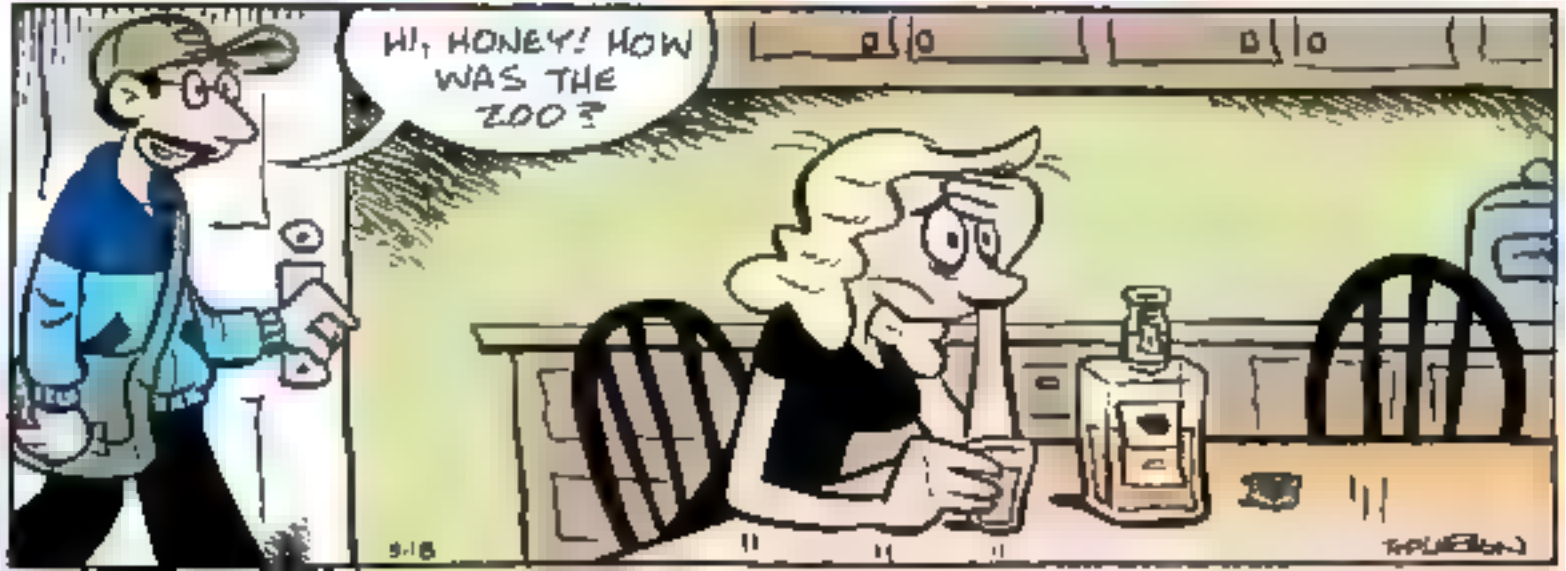
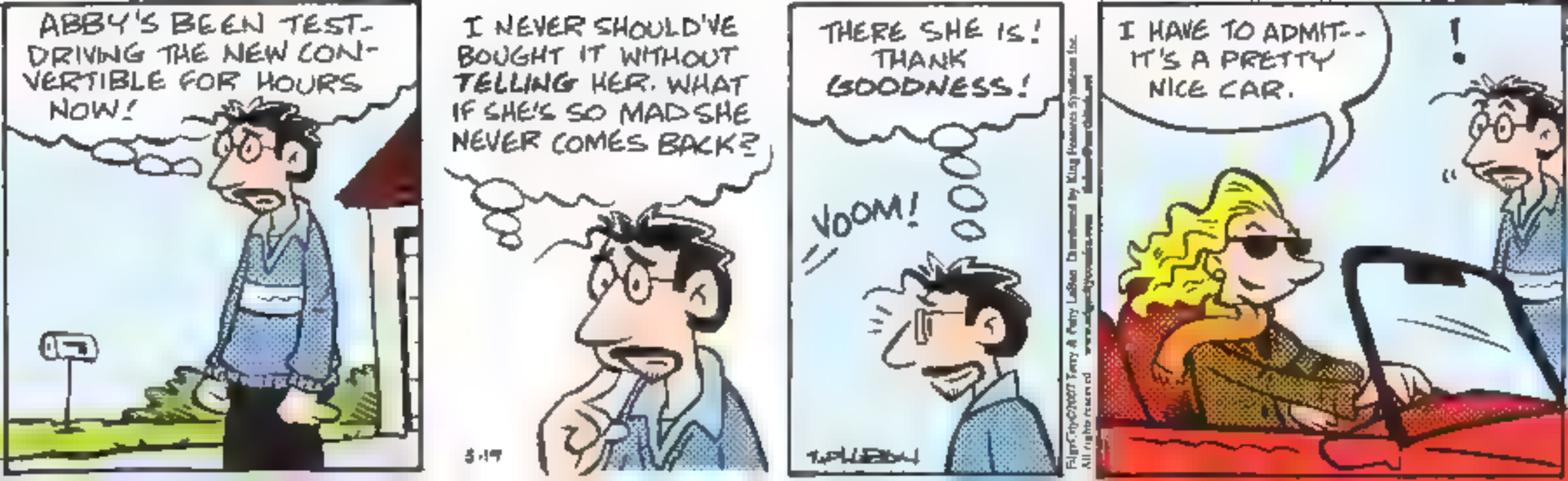

Starry Kingfisher
Threatened due to loss of habitat.

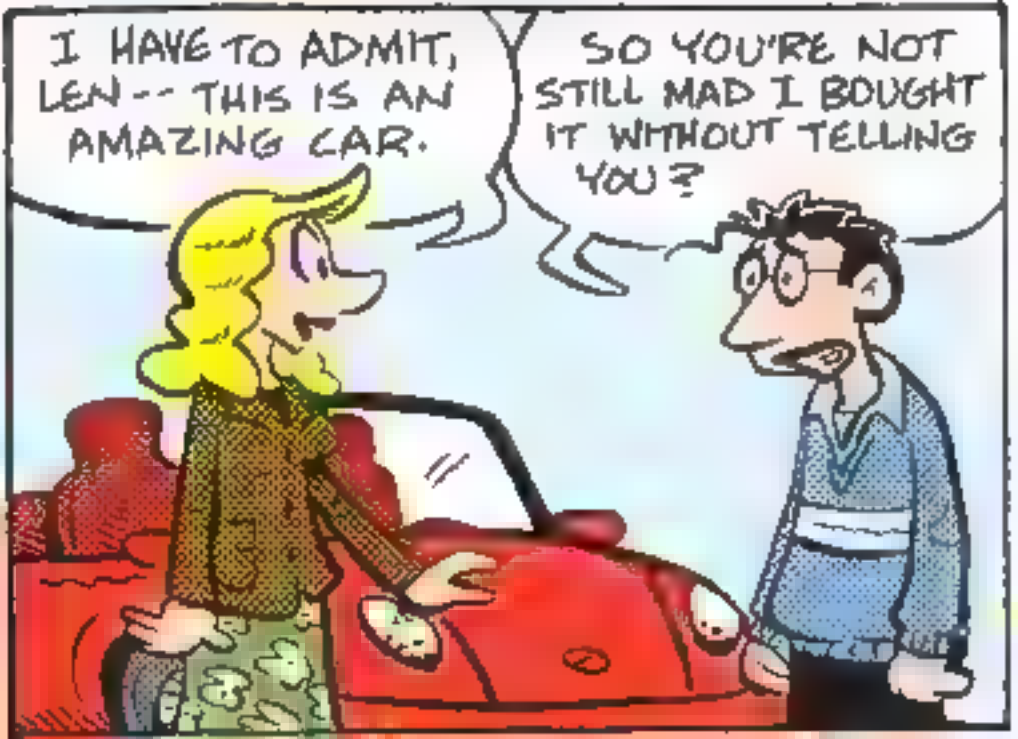

Nubian Leopard
Endangered due to poaching for skins and medicinal products.


Eurasian Lungfish
Disappearing due to pollution caused by industrialization

Greater Weebok
Extinct in the wild. This is the last one.


HI, HONEY! HOW WAS THE ZOO?


ABBY'S BEEN TEST-DRIVING THE NEW CONVERTIBLE FOR HOURS NOW!
I NEVER SHOULD'VE BOUGHT IT WITHOUT TELLING HER. WHAT IF SHE'S SO MAD SHE NEVER COMES BACK?
THERE SHE IS! THANK GOODNESS!
VOOM!
I HAVE TO ADMIT-- IT'S A PRETTY NICE CAR.
!



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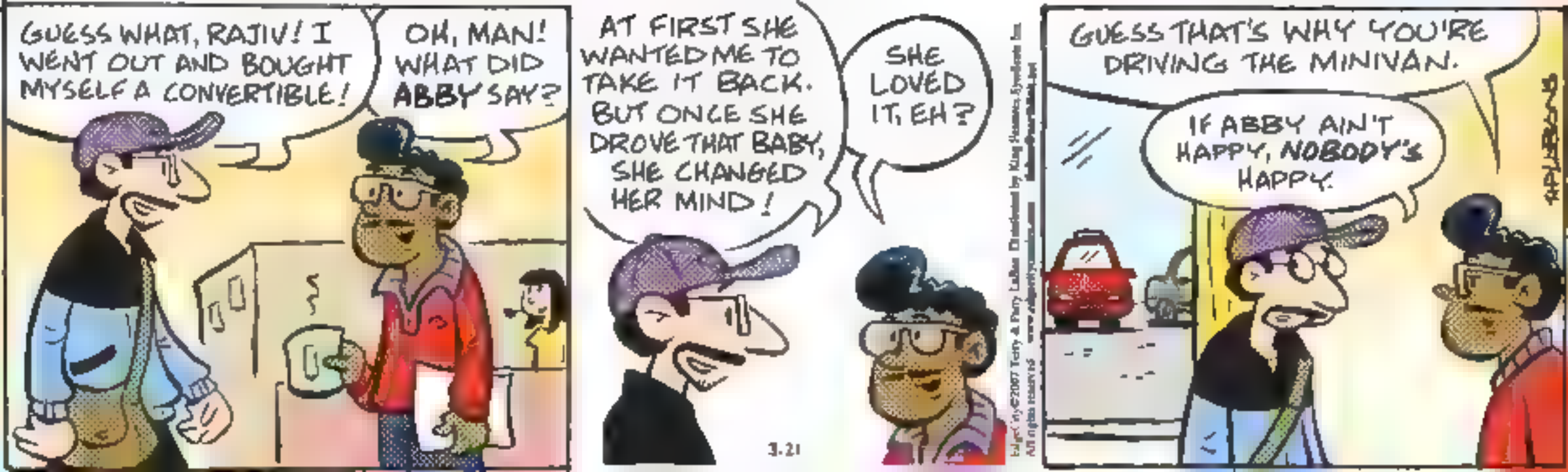
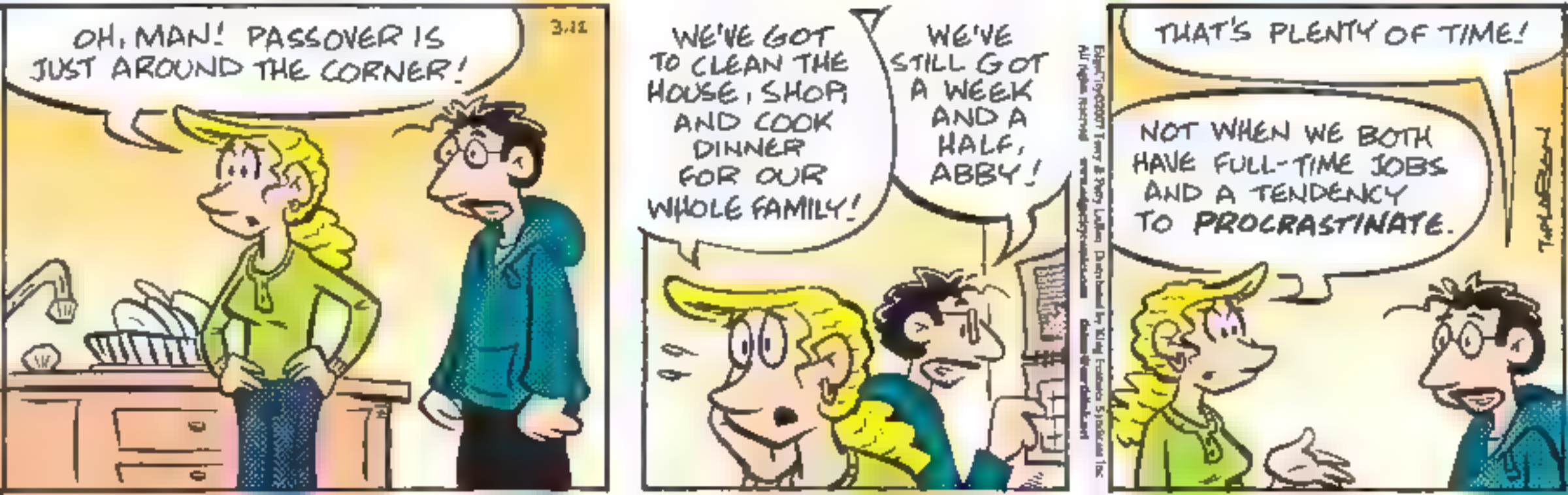
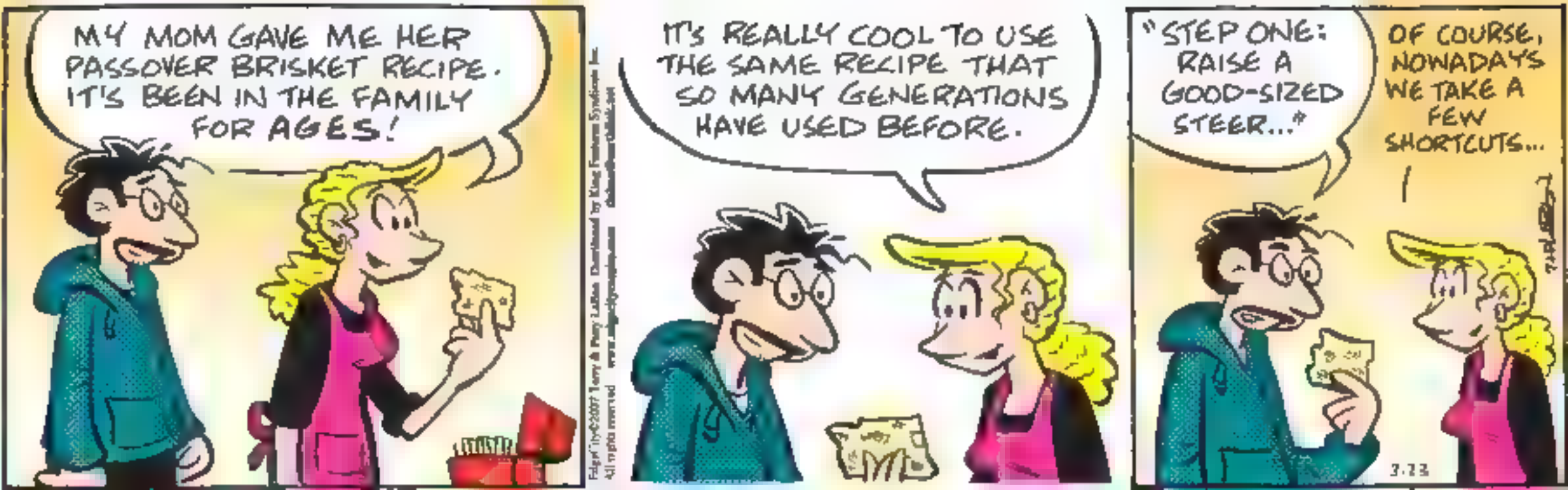
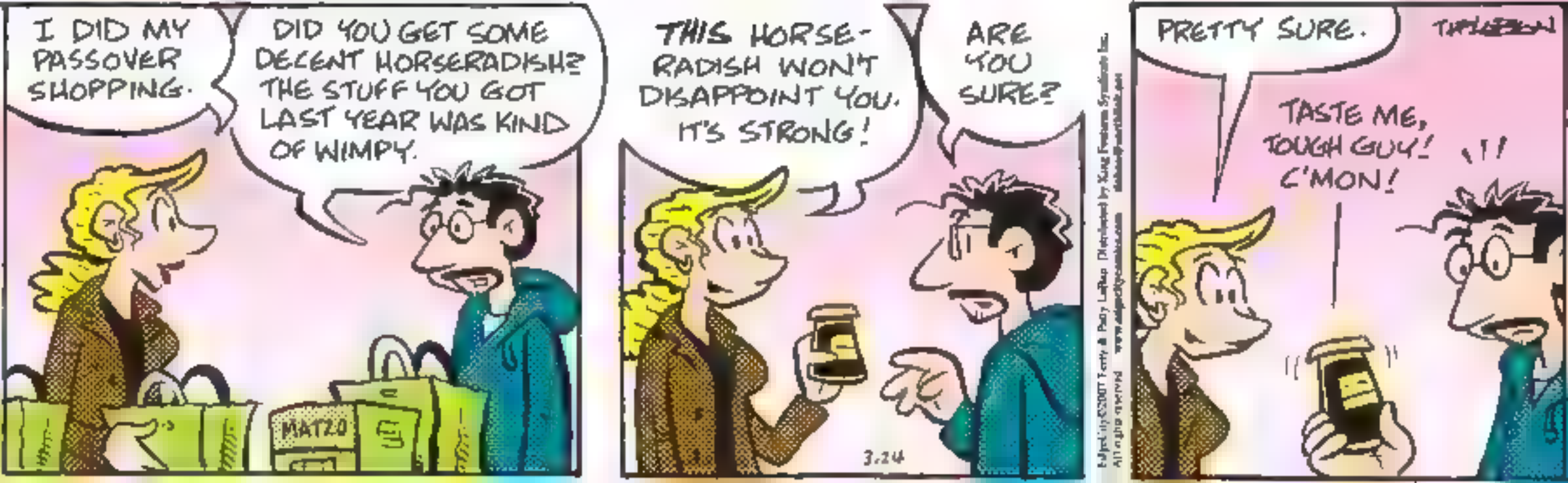
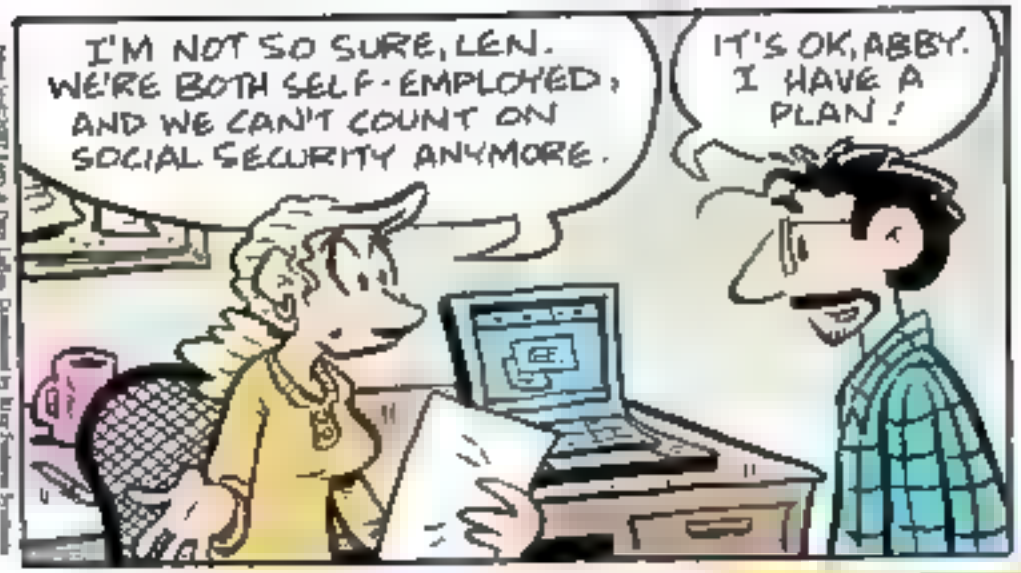

GUESS WHAT, RAJIV! I WENT OUT AND BOUGHT MYSELF A CONVERTIBLE!
OH, MAN! WHAT DID ABBY SAY?
AT FIRST SHE WANTED ME TO TAKE IT BACK. BUT ONCE SHE DROVE THAT BABY, SHE CHANGED HER MIND!
SHE LOVED IT, EH?
3-21
GUESS THAT'S WHY YOU'RE DRIVING THE MINIVAN.
IF ABBY AIN'T HAPPY, NOBODY'S HAPPY.


3.11
OH, MAN! PASSOVER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!
WE'VE GOT TO CLEAN THE HOUSE, SHOP, AND COOK DINNER FOR OUR WHOLE FAMILY!
WE'VE STILL GOT A WEEK AND A HALF, ABBY!
THAT'S PLENTY OF TIME!
NOT WHEN WE BOTH HAVE FULL-TIME JOBS AND A TENDENCY TO PROCRASTINATE.


MY MOM GAVE ME HER PASSOVER BRISKET RECIPE. IT'S BEEN IN THE FAMILY FOR AGES!
IT'S REALLY COOL TO USE THE SAME RECIPE THAT SO MANY GENERATIONS HAVE USED BEFORE.
"STEP ONE: RAISE A GOOD-SIZED STEER..."
OF COURSE, NOWADAYS WE TAKE A FEW SHORTCUTS...
3-23


I DID MY PASSOVER SHOPPING.
DID YOU GET SOME DECENT HORSERADISH? THE STUFF YOU GOT LAST YEAR WAS KIND OF WIMPY.
MATZO
THIS HORSE-RADISH WON'T DISAPPOINT YOU. IT'S STRONG!
ARE YOU SURE?
3.24
PRETTY SURE.
TASTE ME, TOUGH GUY! C'MON!

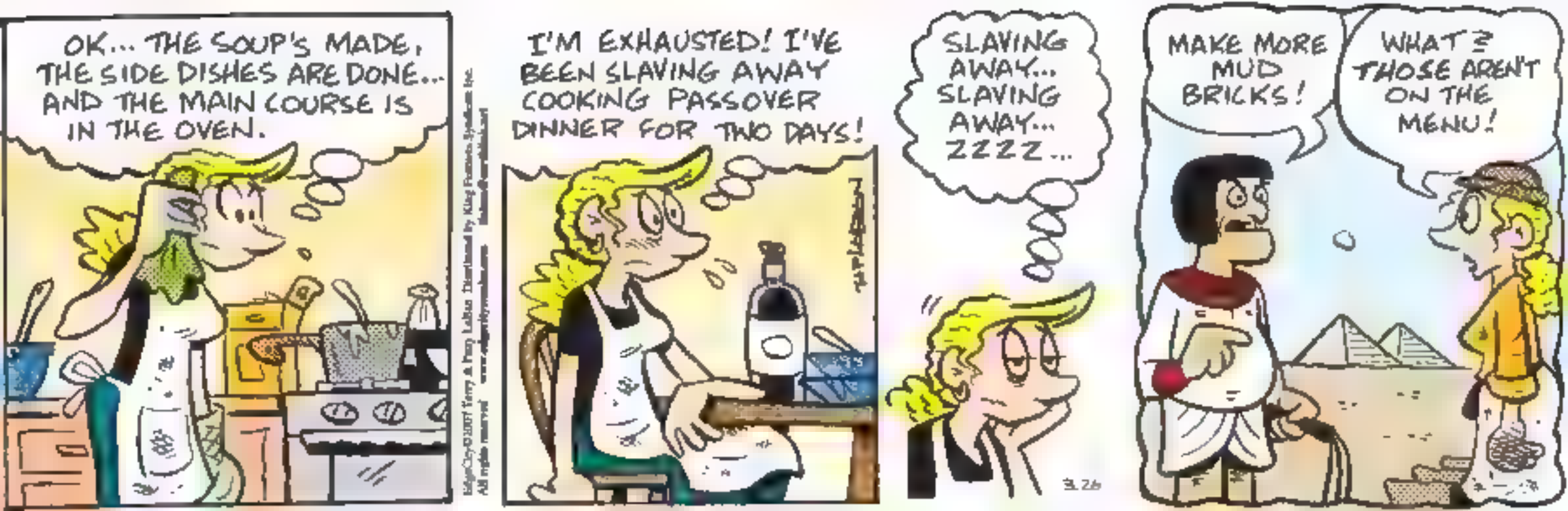
I'M WORRIED THAT WE'RE NOT SAVING ENOUGH FOR RETIREMENT!
WE'LL BE ALL RIGHT.


I'M NOT SO SURE, LEN. WE'RE BOTH SELF-EMPLOYED, AND WE CAN'T COUNT ON SOCIAL SECURITY ANYMORE.
IT'S OK, ABBY. I HAVE A PLAN!

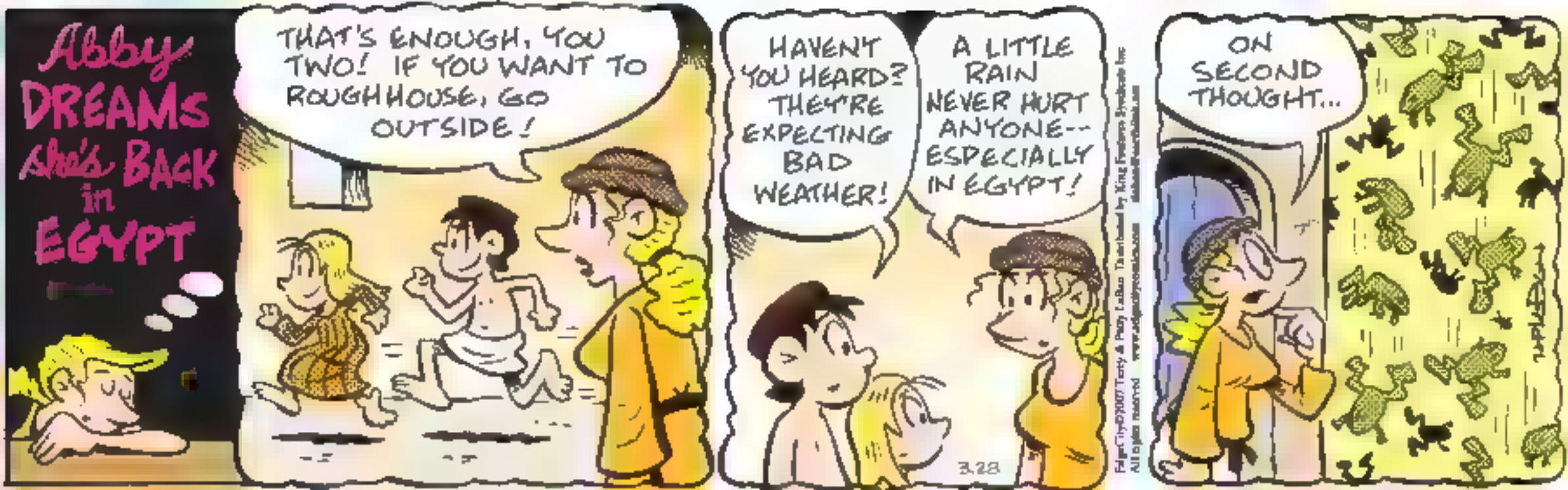
I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU THIS, BUT EACH WEEK I'VE BEEN INVESTING TEN OR TWENTY DOLLARS IN OUR FUTURE!

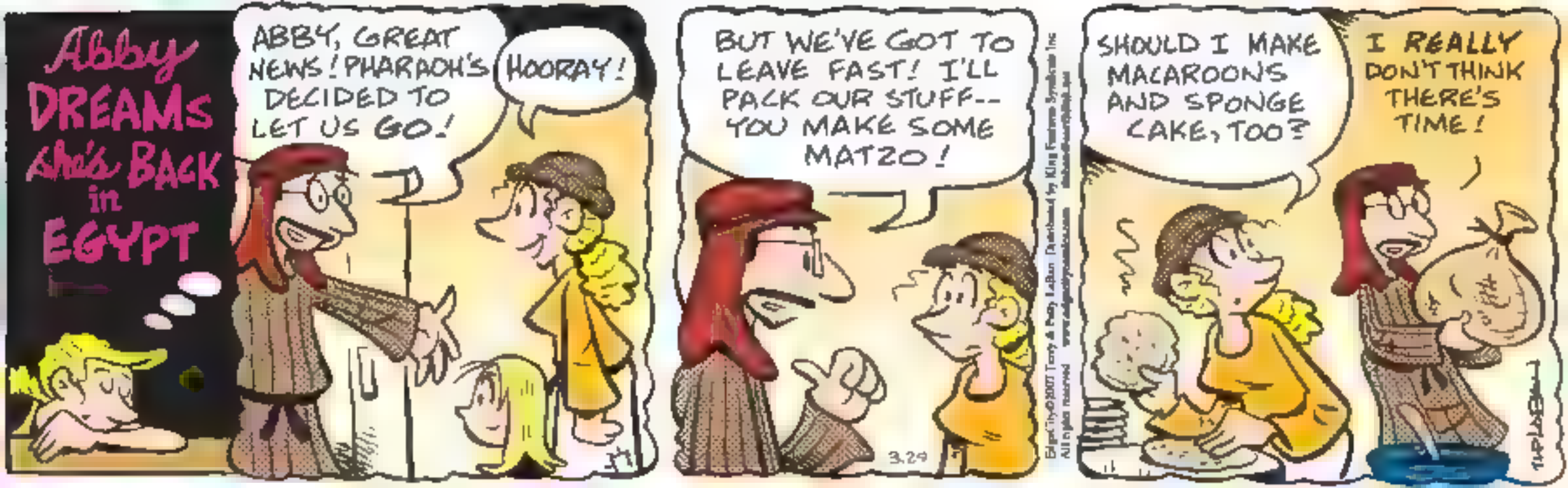
THAT'S GOOD, LEN. BUT EVEN WITH INTEREST, IT'S NOT GOING TO AMOUNT TO MUCH.
DON'T BE SO SURE. WITH A LITTLE LUCK IT COULD REALLY PAY OFF!

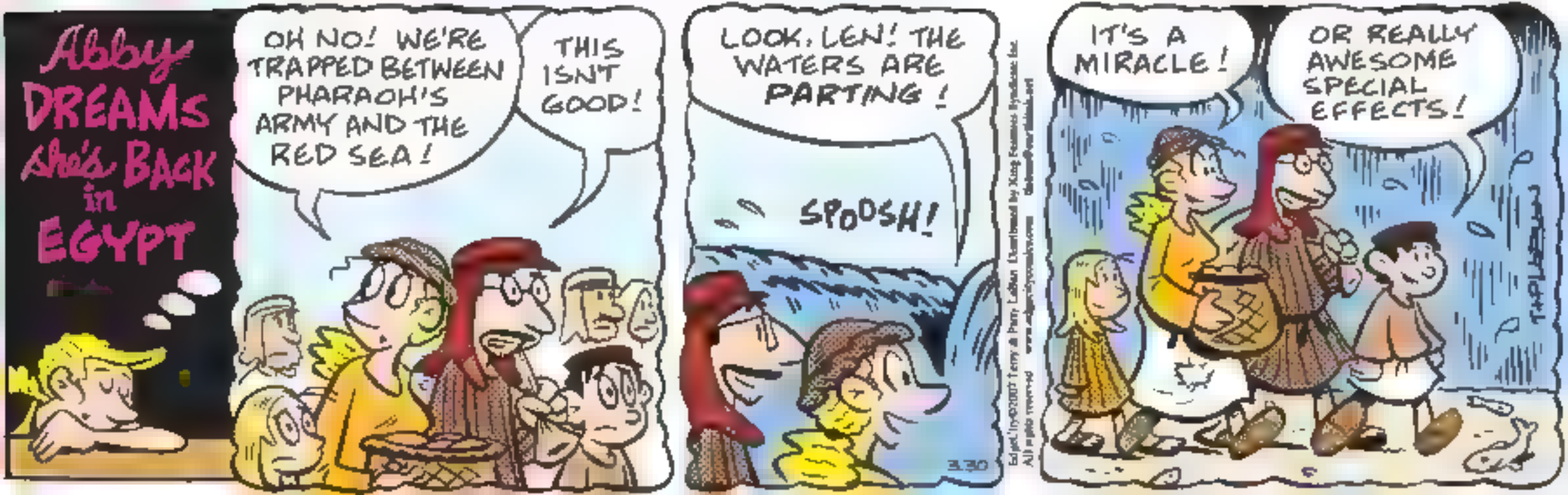
I'LL PLAY BONUSBALL-- 54, 32, 23...
LOTTO


OK... THE SOUP'S MADE, THE SIDE DISHES ARE DONE... AND THE MAIN COURSE IS IN THE OVEN.
I'M EXHAUSTED! I'VE BEEN SLAVING AWAY COOKING PASSOVER DINNER FOR TWO DAYS!
SLAVING AWAY... SLAVING AWAY... ZZZZ...
MAKE MORE MUD BRICKS!
WHAT? THOSE AREN'T ON THE MENU!

Abby DREAMS she's BACK in EGYPT
HI, HONEY! HOW WAS YOUR DAY?
SLAVERY'S NO FUN! I'M EXHAUSTED!
YEAH. ME TOO.
AT LEAST BEING A COURT MUSICIAN IS EASIER THAN MAKING MUD BRICKS ALL DAY!
3.27
NOT WHEN ALL THEY LET YOU PLAY IS "WALK LIKE AN EGYPTIAN"!
MOM, HOW LONG TILL THEY INVENT TV?


Abby DREAMS she's BACK in EGYPT
THAT'S ENOUGH, YOU TWO! IF YOU WANT TO ROUGHHOUSE, GO OUTSIDE!
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? THEY'RE EXPECTING BAD WEATHER!
A LITTLE RAIN NEVER HURT ANYONE-- ESPECIALLY IN EGYPT!
3.28
ON SECOND THOUGHT...


Abby DREAMS She's BACK in EGYPT
ABBY, GREAT NEWS! PHARAOH'S DECIDED TO LET US GO!
HOORAY!
BUT WE'VE GOT TO LEAVE FAST! I'LL PACK OUR STUFF-- YOU MAKE SOME MATZO!
3.29
SHOULD I MAKE MACAROONS AND SPONGE CAKE, TOO?
I REALLY DON'T THINK THERE'S TIME!


Abby DREAMS she's BACK in EGYPT
OH NO! WE'RE TRAPPED BETWEEN PHARAOH'S ARMY AND THE RED SEA!
THIS ISN'T GOOD!
LOOK, LEN! THE WATERS ARE PARTING!
SPOOSH!
3.30
IT'S A MIRACLE!
OR REALLY AWESOME SPECIAL EFFECTS!

Abby DREAMS she's BACK in EGYPT
WOW! WE'RE NOT SLAVES ANYMORE! WE'RE FREE!
BUT NOW WE'RE ON OUR OWN IN THE DESERT! WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US?
I DON'T KNOW. BUT I'LL TELL YOU THIS...
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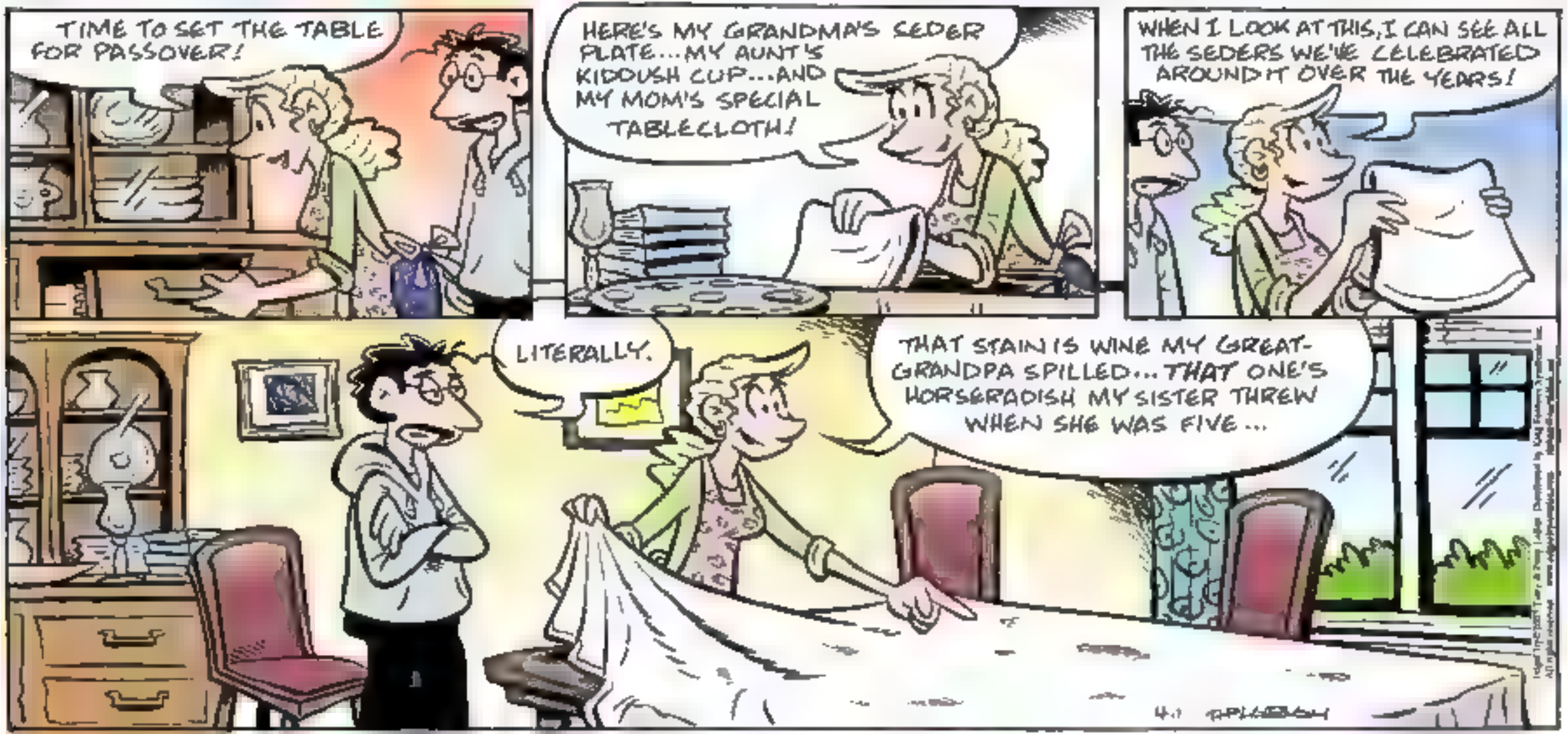
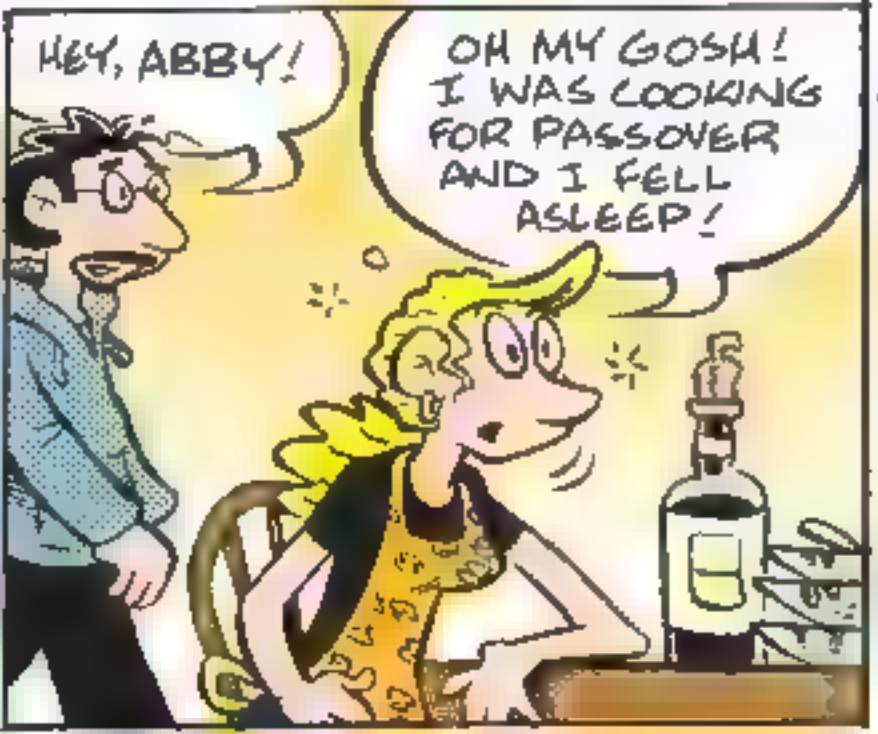
....IN ABOUT 3,000 YEARS, IT'LL MAKE A GREAT STORY!
3.31


TIME TO SET THE TABLE FOR PASSOVER!
HERE'S MY GRANDMA'S SEDER PLATE...MY AUNT'S KIDDUSH CUP...AND MY MOM'S SPECIAL TABLECLOTH!
WHEN I LOOK AT THIS, I CAN SEE ALL THE SEDERS WE'VE CELEBRATED AROUND IT OVER THE YEARS!
LITERALLY.
THAT STAIN IS WINE MY GREAT-GRANDPA SPILLED...THAT ONE'S HORSERADISH MY SISTER THREW WHEN SHE WAS FIVE...



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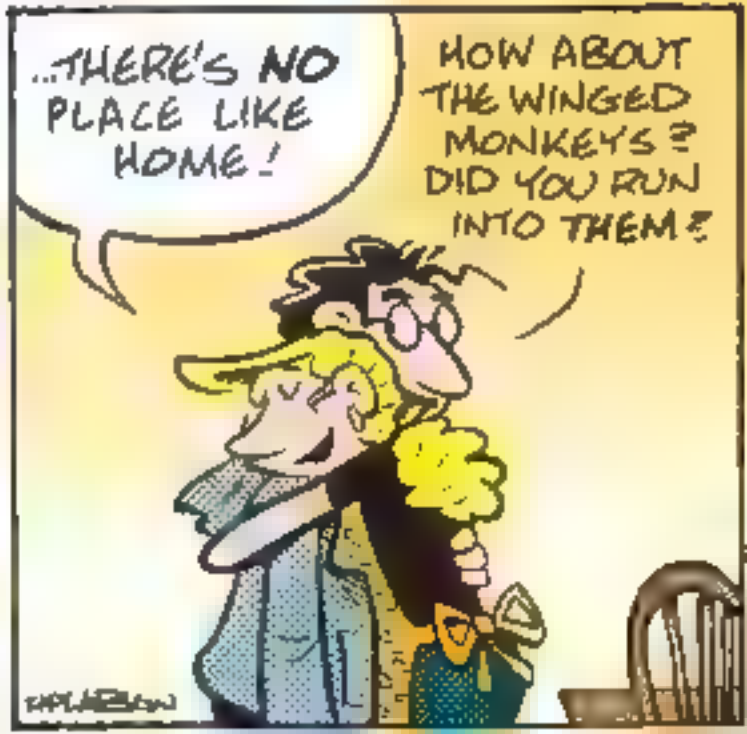

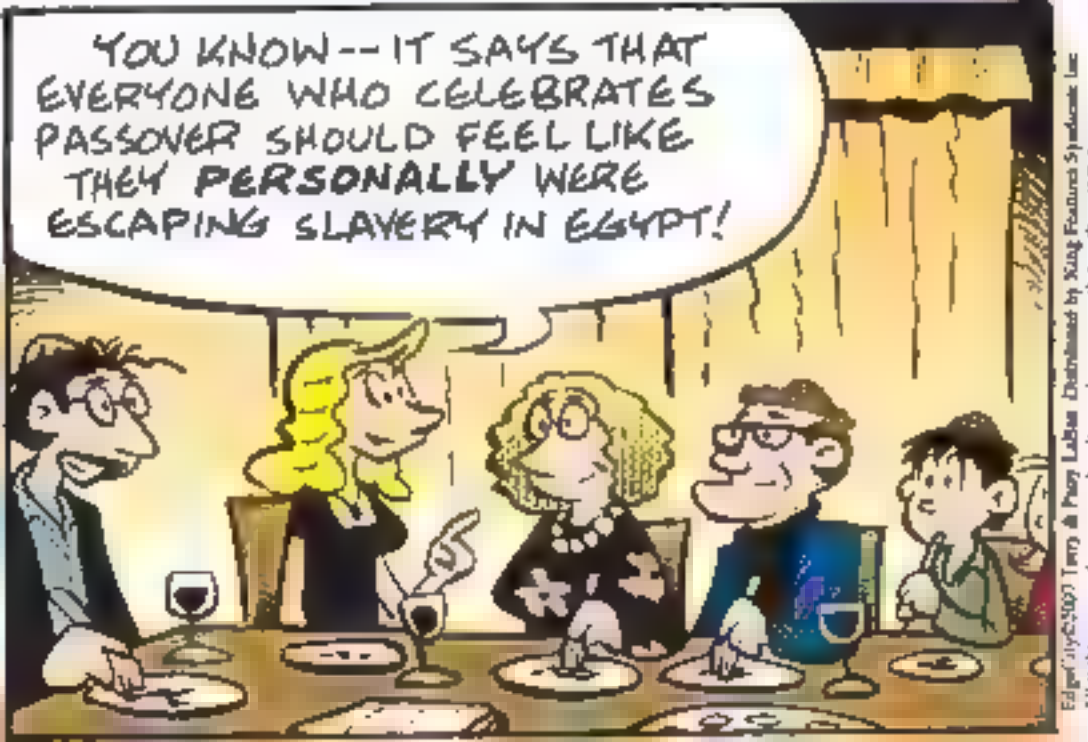

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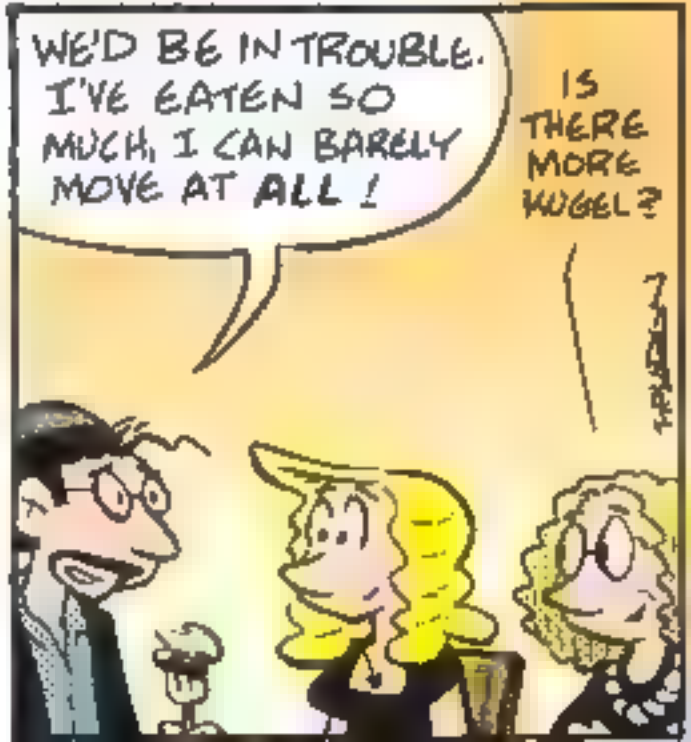

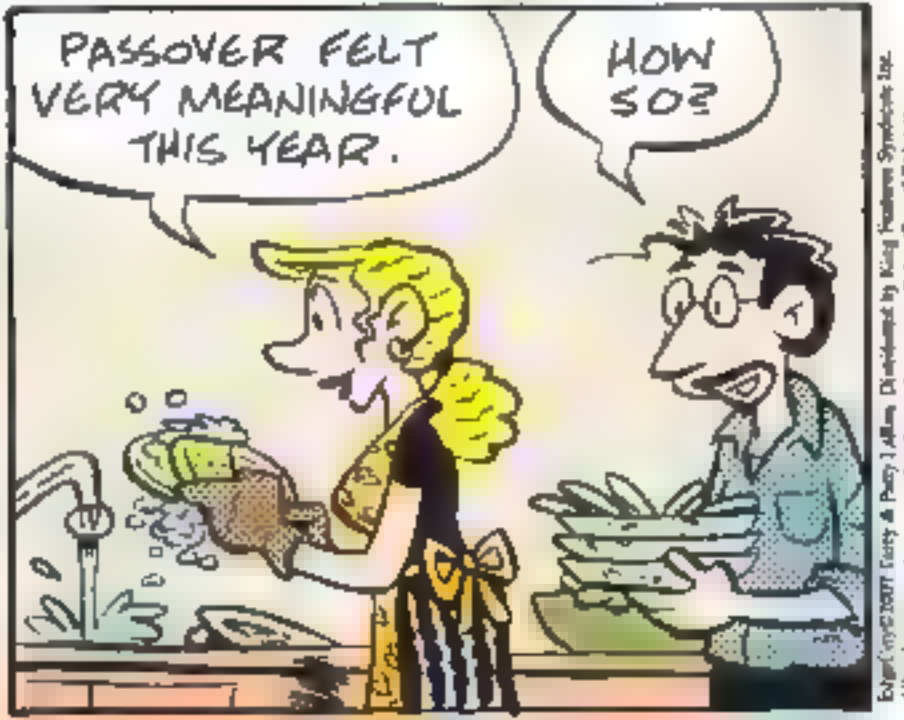

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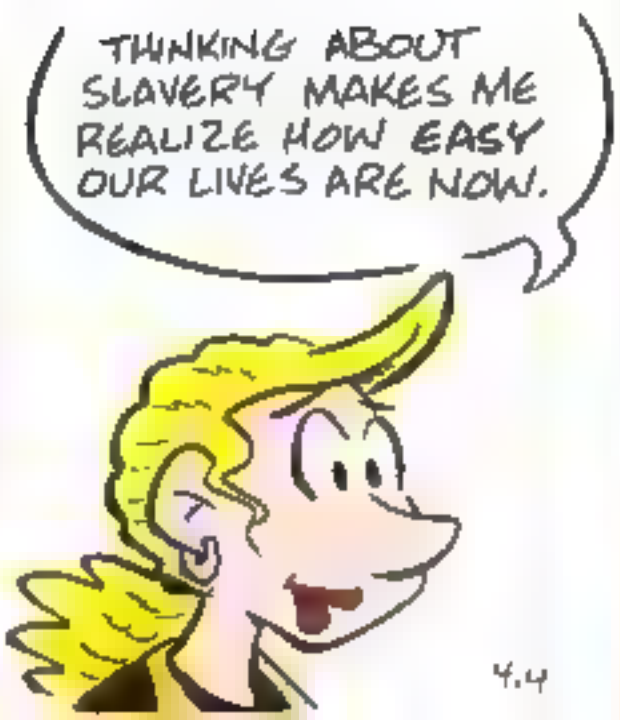
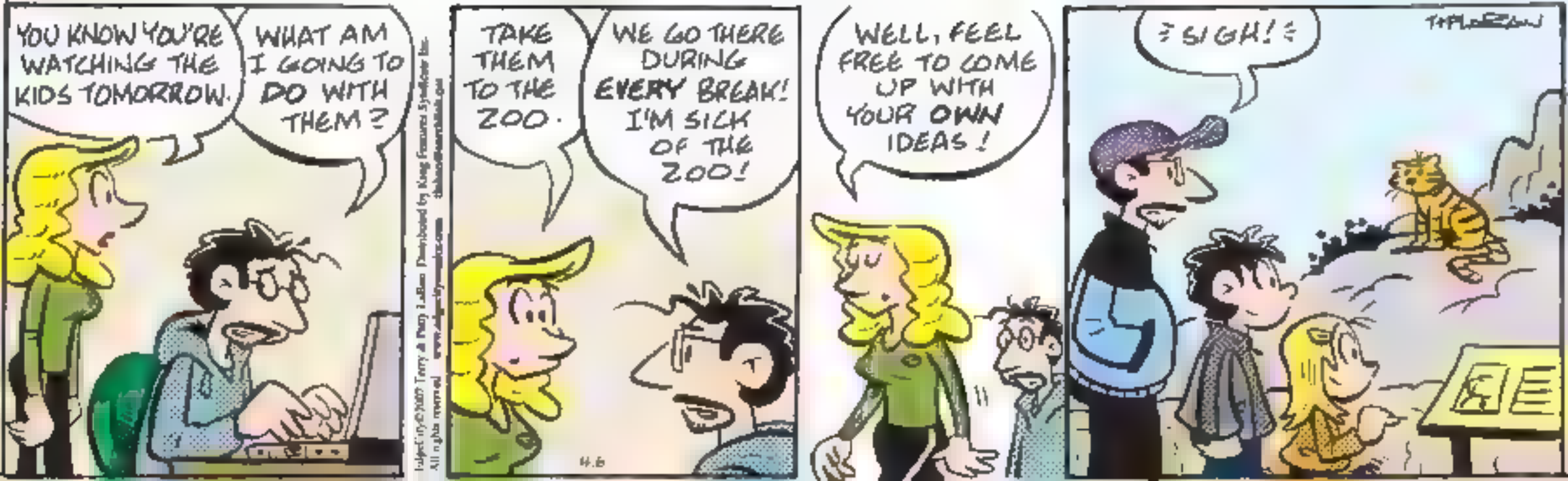
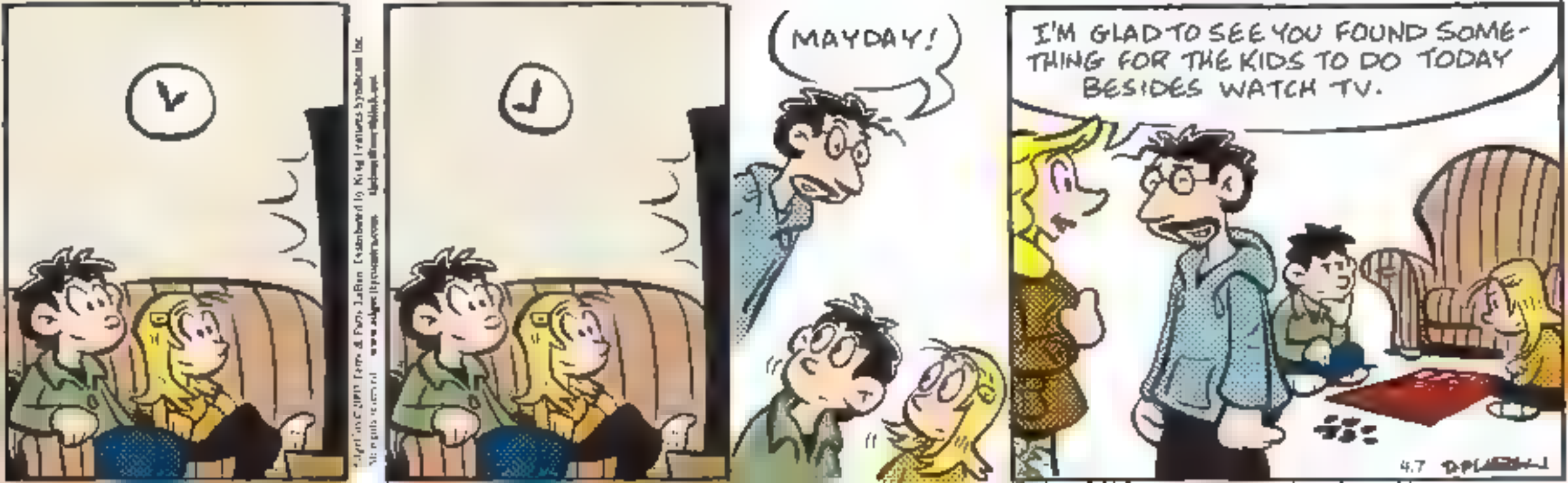
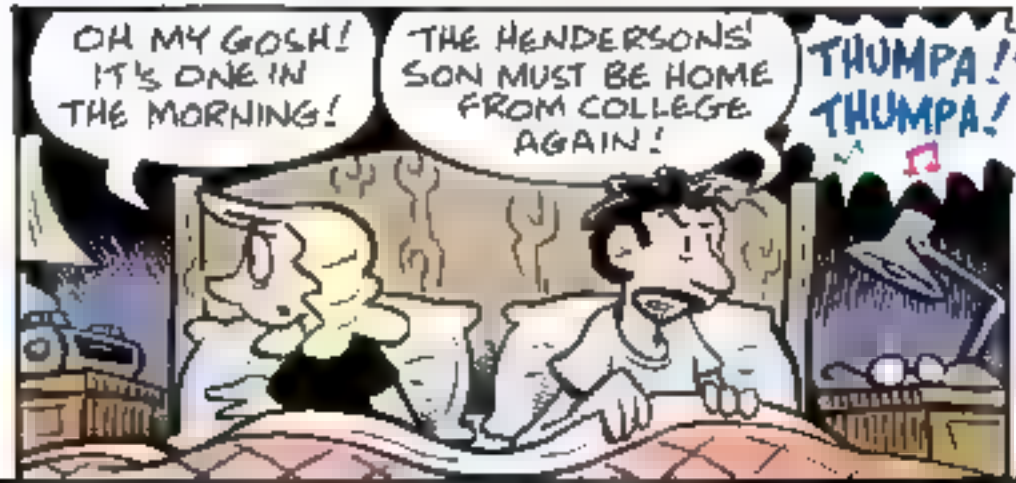
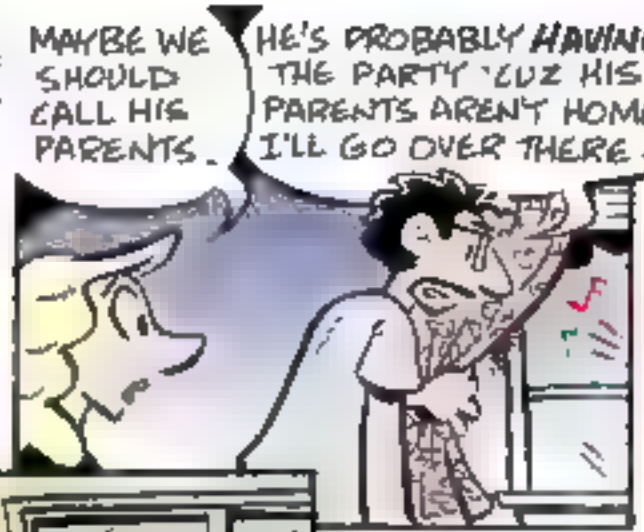


Y'KNOW, ABBY-- I'VE BEEN THINKING. IT'D BE NICE TO TAKE A VACATION OVER THE KIDS' SPRING BREAK.
4-5
MAYBE A NATIONAL PARK...OR EVEN A TRIP TO MEXICO!
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA, LEN.
WE SHOULD'VE THOUGHT OF IT BEFORE THEIR BREAK WAS HALF OVER.
WHAT CAN WE DO NOW?

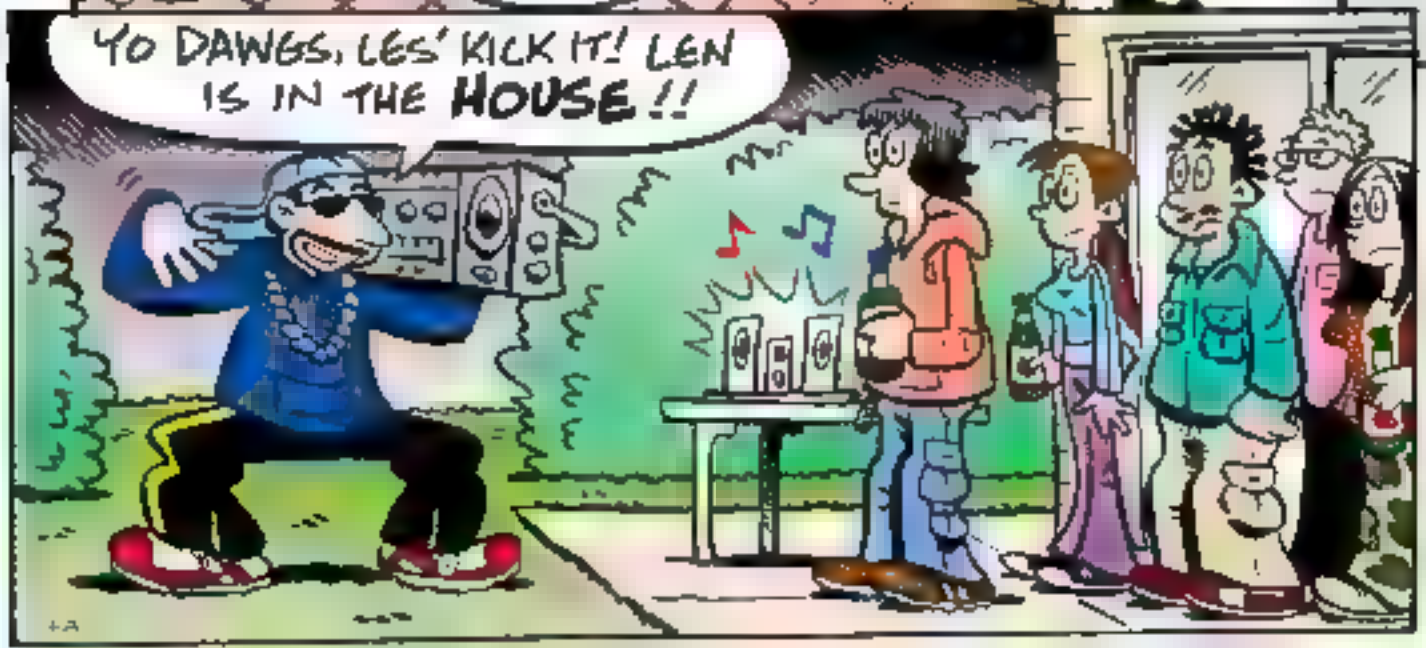

YOU KNOW YOU'RE WATCHING THE KIDS TOMORROW.
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH THEM?
TAKE THEM TO THE ZOO.
WE GO THERE DURING EVERY BREAK! I'M SICK OF THE ZOO!
WELL, FEEL FREE TO COME UP WITH YOUR OWN IDEAS!
SIGH!
TAYLOR

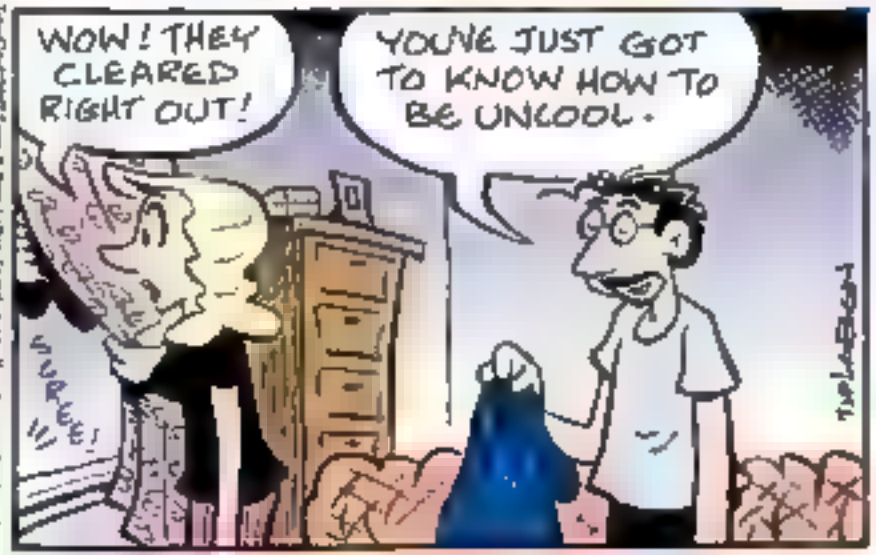

MAYDAY!
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU FOUND SOME-THING FOR THE KIDS TO DO TODAY BESIDES WATCH TV.

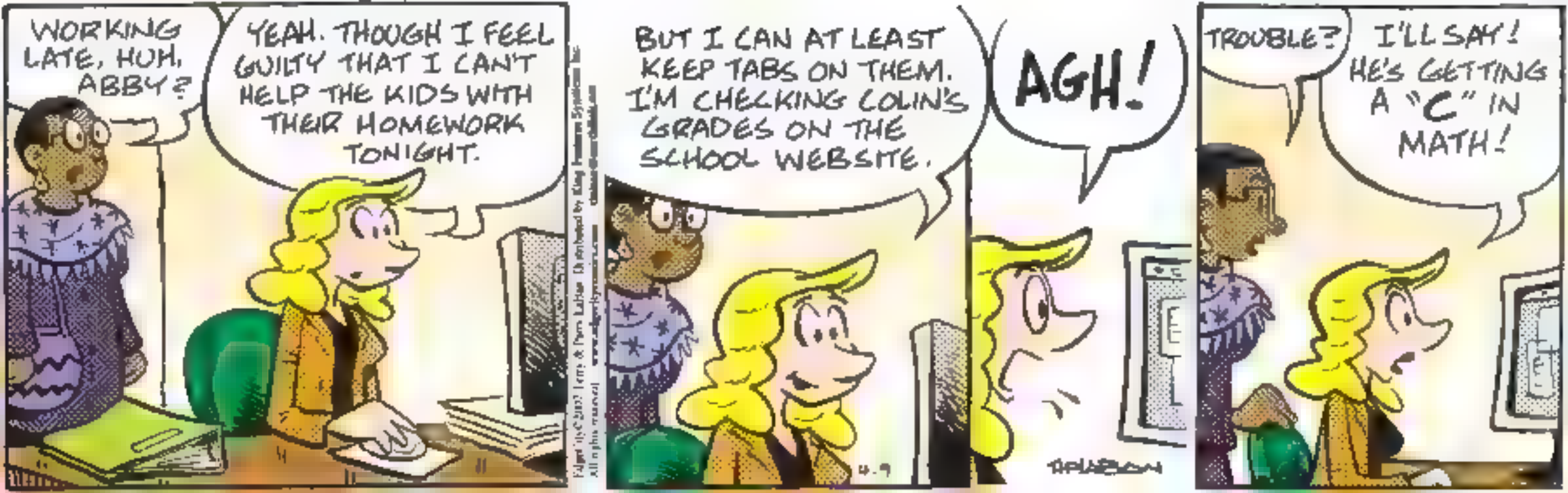

OH MY GOSH! IT'S ONE IN THE MORNING!
THE HENDERSONS' SON MUST BE HOME FROM COLLEGE AGAIN!
THUMPA! THUMPA!

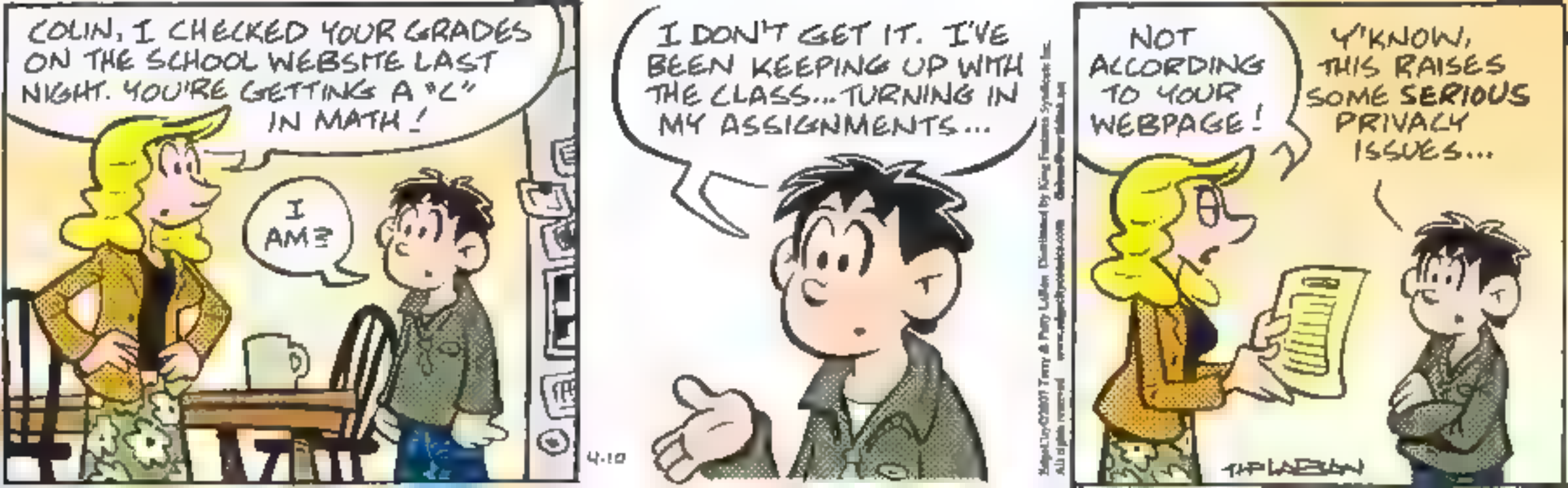

MAYBE WE SHOULD CALL HIS PARENTS.
HE'S PROBABLY HAVING THE PARTY 'CUZ HIS PARENTS AREN'T HOME. I'LL GO OVER THERE.

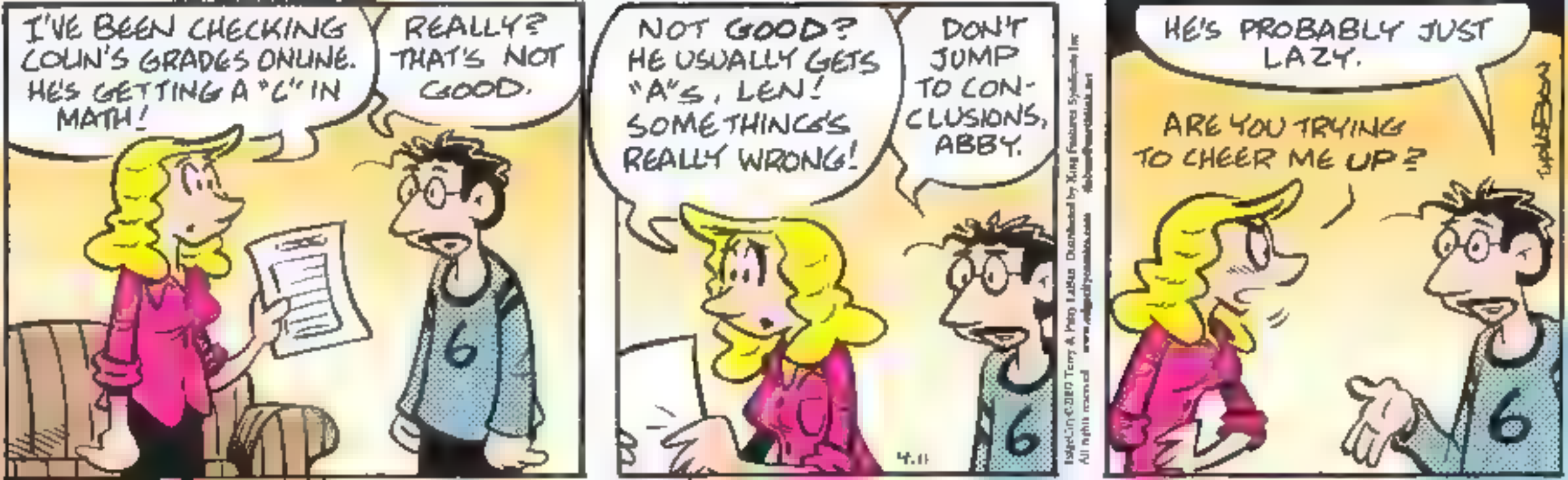
DON'T GET INTO A CONFRON-TATION!
DON'T WORRY. I CAN HANDLE THIS.


YO DAWGS, LES' KICK IT! LEN IS IN THE HOUSE!!

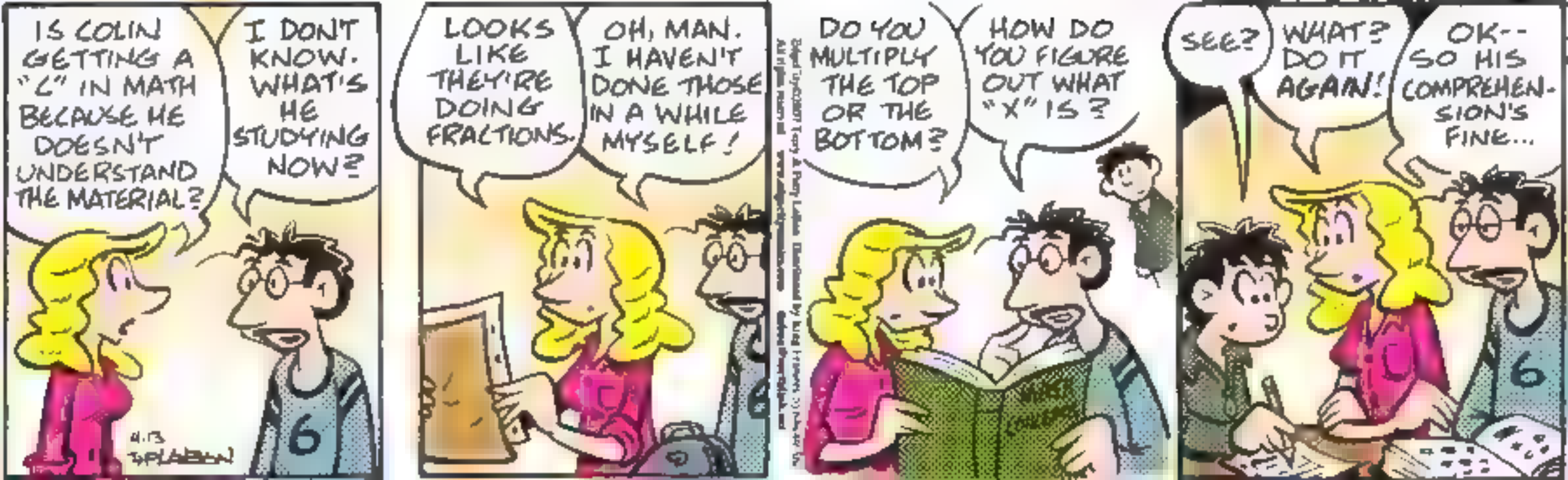

WOW! THEY CLEARED RIGHT OUT!
YOU'VE JUST GOT TO KNOW HOW TO BE UNCOOL.
SURE!

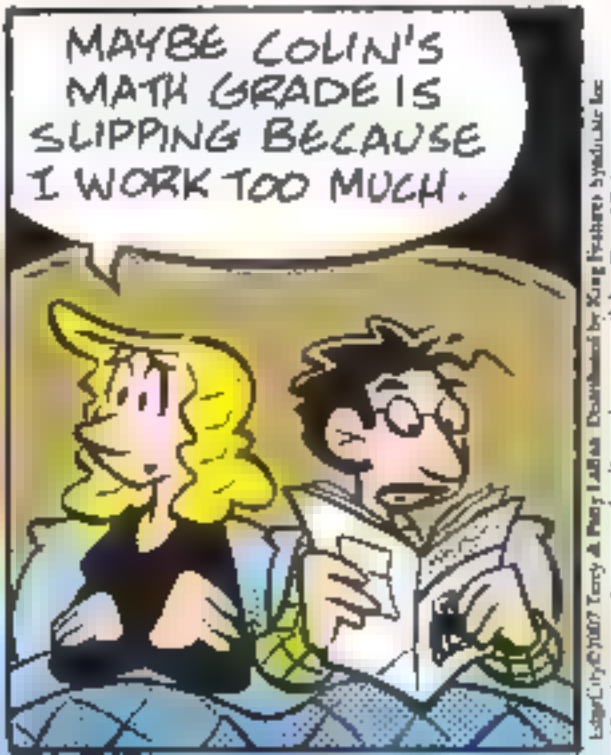

WORKING LATE, HUH, ABBY?
YEAH. THOUGH I FEEL GUILTY THAT I CAN'T HELP THE KIDS WITH THEIR HOMEWORK TONIGHT.
BUT I CAN AT LEAST KEEP TABS ON THEM. I'M CHECKING COLIN'S GRADES ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE.
AGH!
TROUBLE?
I'LL SAY! HE'S GETTING A "C" IN MATH!


COLIN, I CHECKED YOUR GRADES ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE LAST NIGHT. YOU'RE GETTING A "C" IN MATH!
I AM?
4-10
I DON'T GET IT. I'VE BEEN KEEPING UP WITH THE CLASS... TURNING IN MY ASSIGNMENTS...
NOT ACCORDING TO YOUR WEBPAGE!
Y'KNOW, THIS RAISES SOME SERIOUS PRIVACY ISSUES...


I'VE BEEN CHECKING COLIN'S GRADES ONLINE. HE'S GETTING A "C" IN MATH!
REALLY? THAT'S NOT GOOD.
NOT GOOD? HE USUALLY GETS "A"S, LEN! SOMETHING'S REALLY WRONG!
DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS, ABBY.
HE'S PROBABLY JUST LAZY.
ARE YOU TRYING TO CHEER ME UP?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY COLIN'S GETTING A "C" IN MATH!
ME EITHER. IT WAS ALWAYS ONE OF HIS BETTER SUBJECTS.
THIS CAN'T GO ON! WE'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO HANDLE IT!
LEAVE IT TO ME, ABBY.
YOU'RE IN BIG TROUBLE, MY FRIEND!
I MEAN A WAY THAT DOESN'T TRAUMATIZE HIM FOR LIFE!


IS COLIN GETTING A "C" IN MATH BECAUSE HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THE MATERIAL?
I DON'T KNOW. WHAT'S HE STUDYING NOW?
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE DOING FRACTIONS.
OH, MAN. I HAVEN'T DONE THOSE IN A WHILE MYSELF!
DO YOU MULTIPLY THE TOP OR THE BOTTOM?
HOW DO YOU FIGURE OUT WHAT "X" IS?
SEE?
WHAT? DO IT AGAIN!
OK-- SO HIS COMPREHENSION'S FINE...



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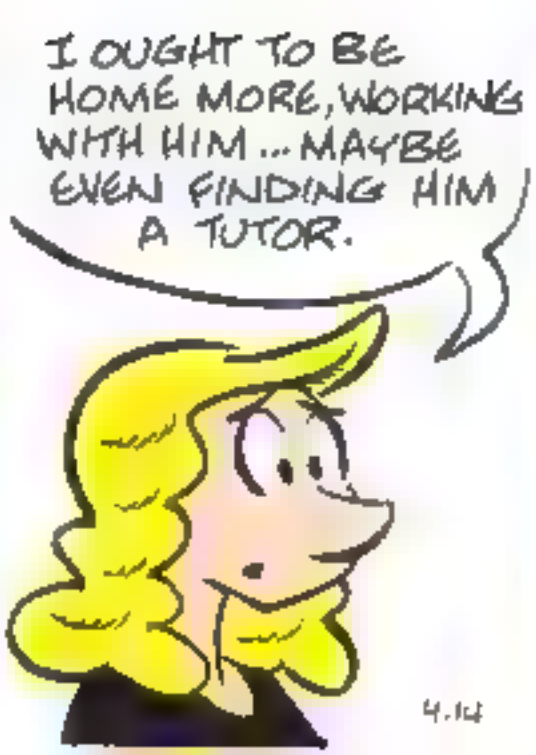
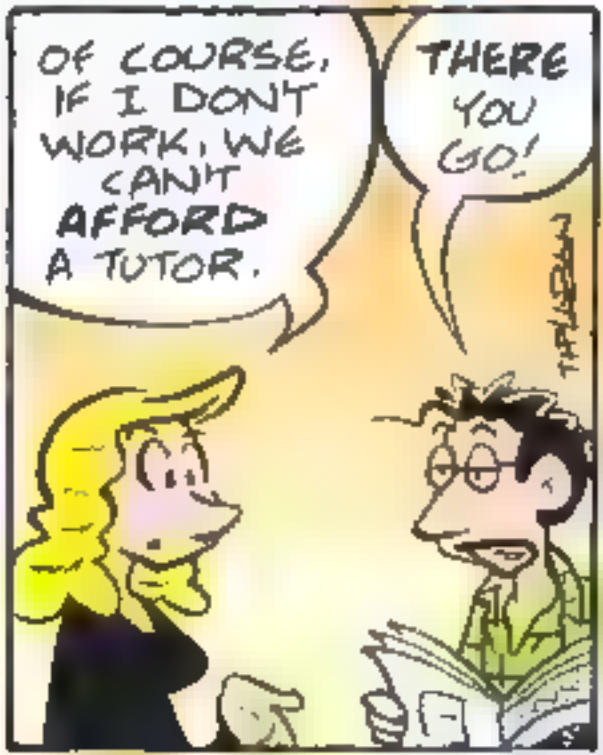
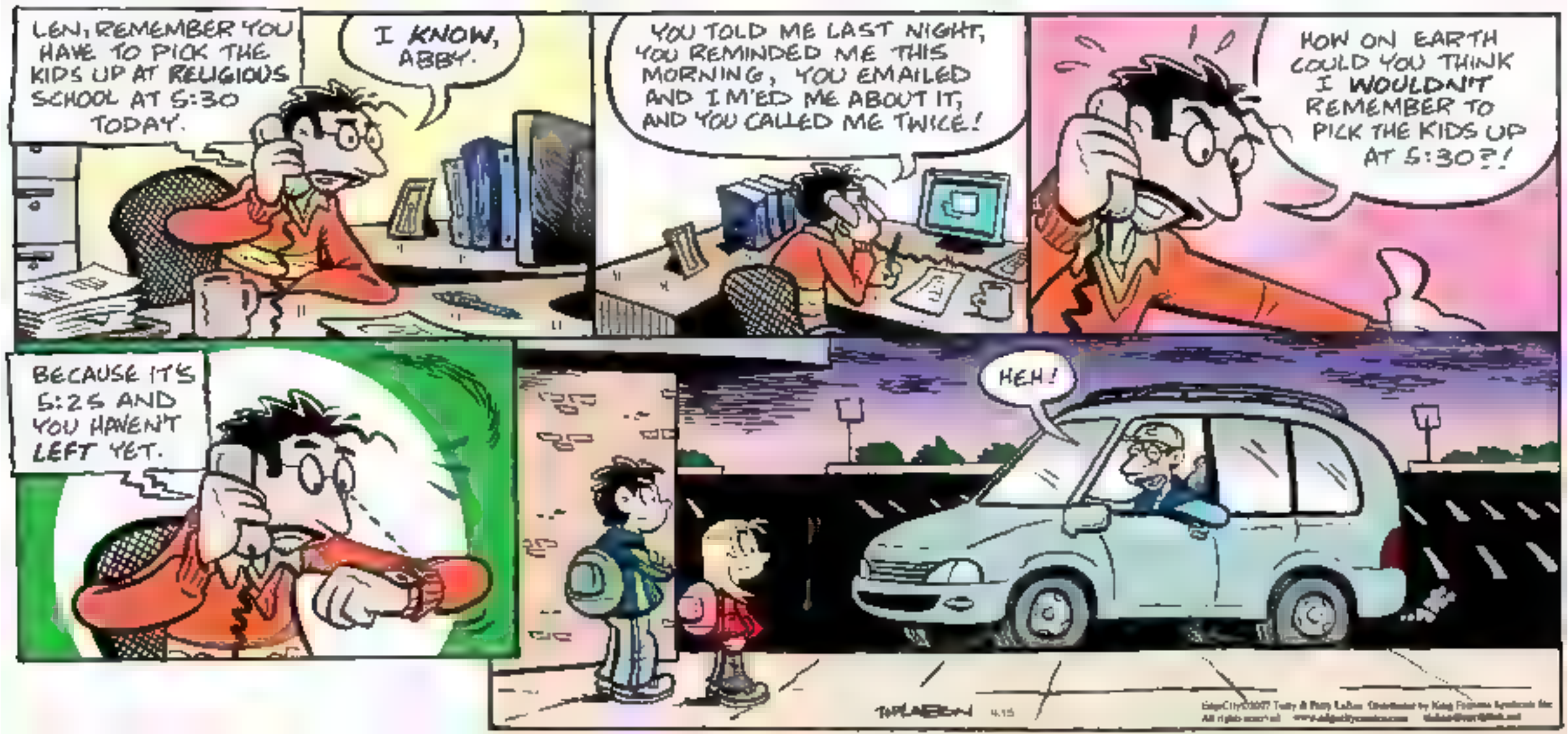
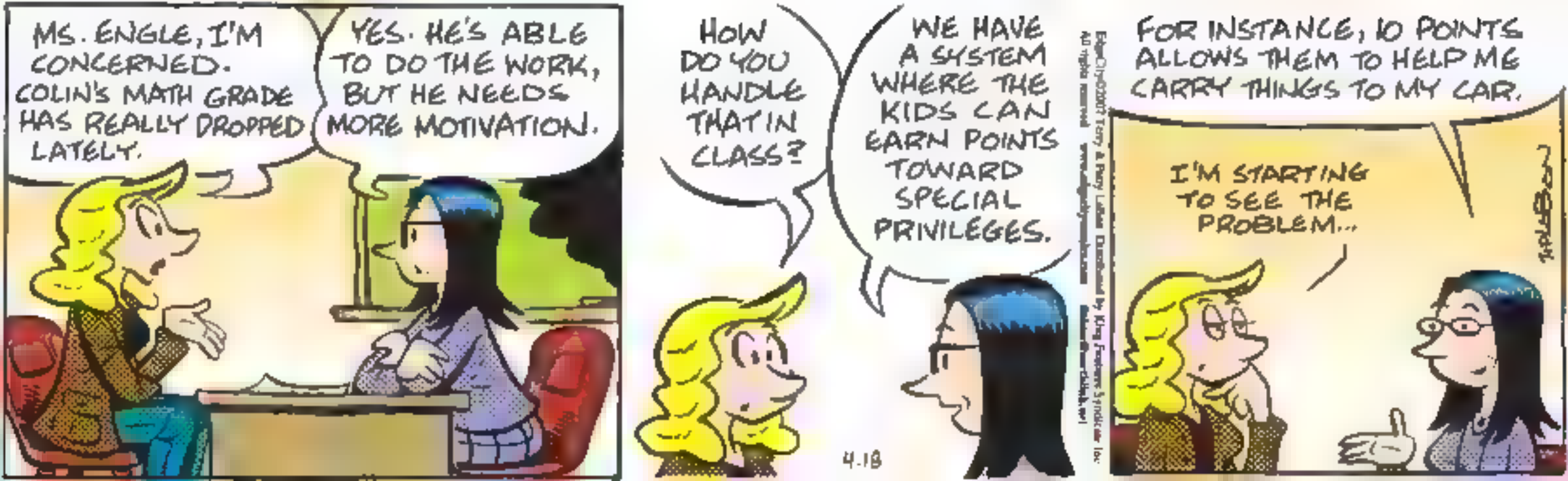





LEN, REMEMBER YOU HAVE TO PICK THE KIDS UP AT RELIGIOUS SCHOOL AT 5:30 TODAY.
I KNOW, ABBY.
YOU TOLD ME LAST NIGHT, YOU REMINDED ME THIS MORNING, YOU EMAILED AND I M'ED ME ABOUT IT, AND YOU CALLED ME TWICE!
HOW ON EARTH COULD YOU THINK I WOULDN'T REMEMBER TO PICK THE KIDS UP AT 5:30?!
BECAUSE IT'S 5:25 AND YOU HAVEN'T LEFT YET.
HEH!

HI, ABBY. WHAT'S GOING ON?
I'M WORRIED ABOUT COLIN, MOM. HE'S GETTING A "C" IN MATH.
YOU NEED TO NIP THIS IN THE BUD. MONITOR HIS WORK. HIRE A TUTOR. PUT HIM ON A VIGOROUS PROGRAM OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.
YOU NEVER PUT ME ON A VIGOROUS PROGRAM OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT!
WELL, HINDSIGHT'S 20/20.

SOMETHING WRONG WITH ABBY, LEN?
SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT COLIN, MOM. HE'S GETTING A "C" IN MATH.
SCHOOL'S A WASTE OF TIME. IF YOU REALLY WANT HIM TO LEARN SOMETHING, LET HIM HITCHHIKE AROUND THE COUNTRY!
4-17
COLIN'S NINE, BEV!
SO? HE CAN GO WITH ME!



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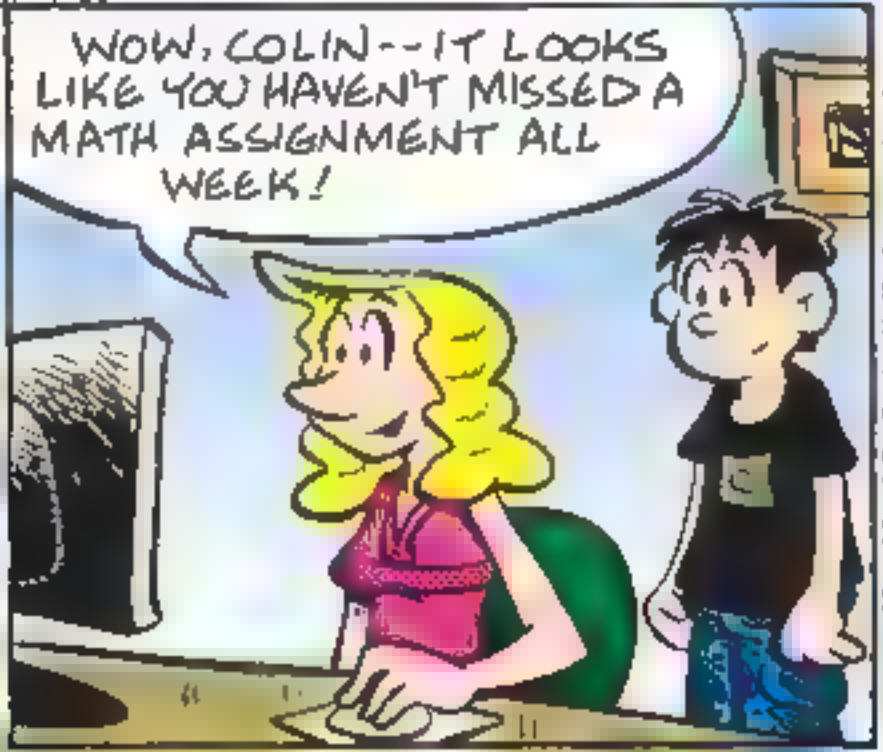
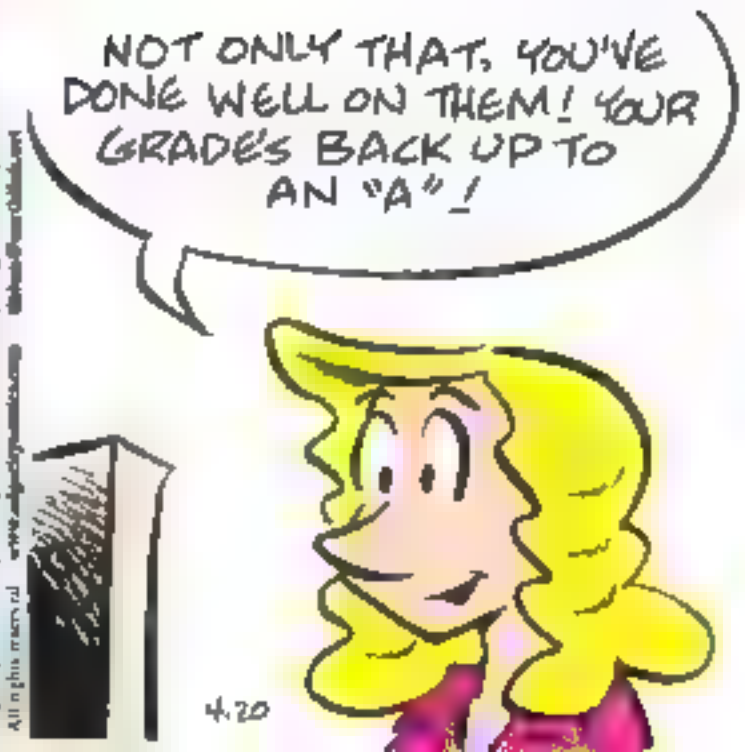
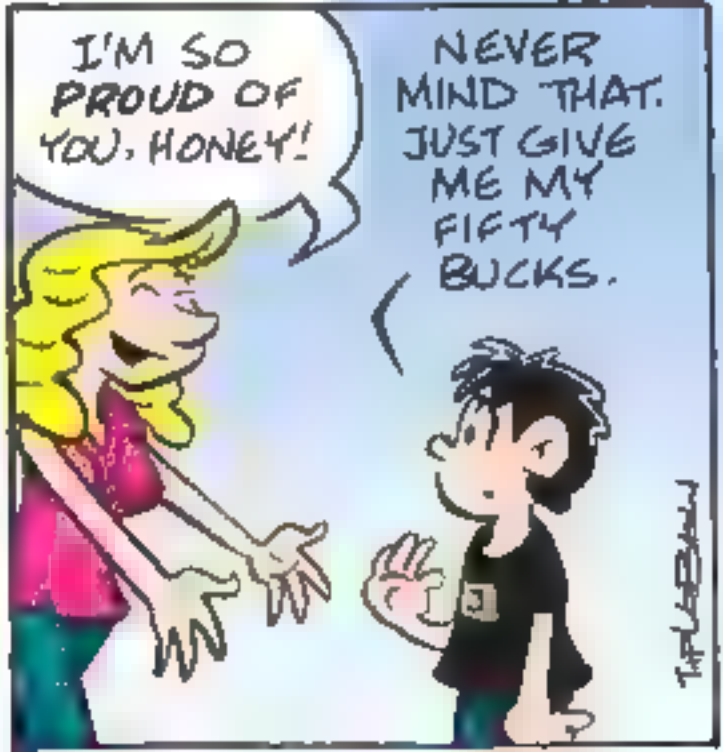
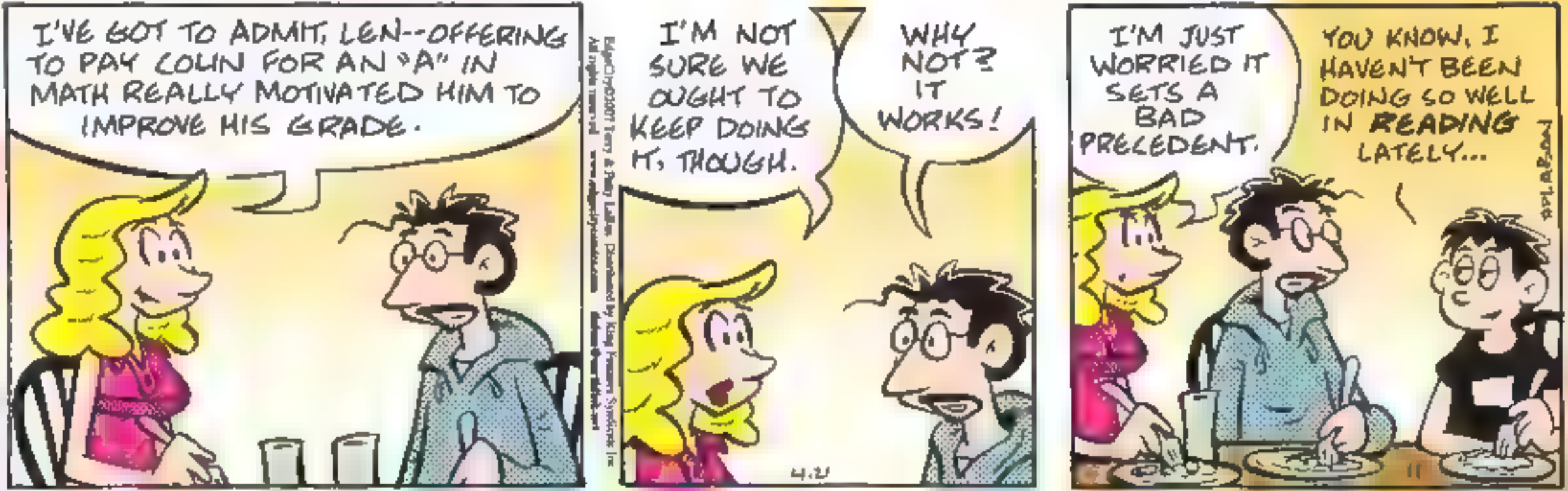
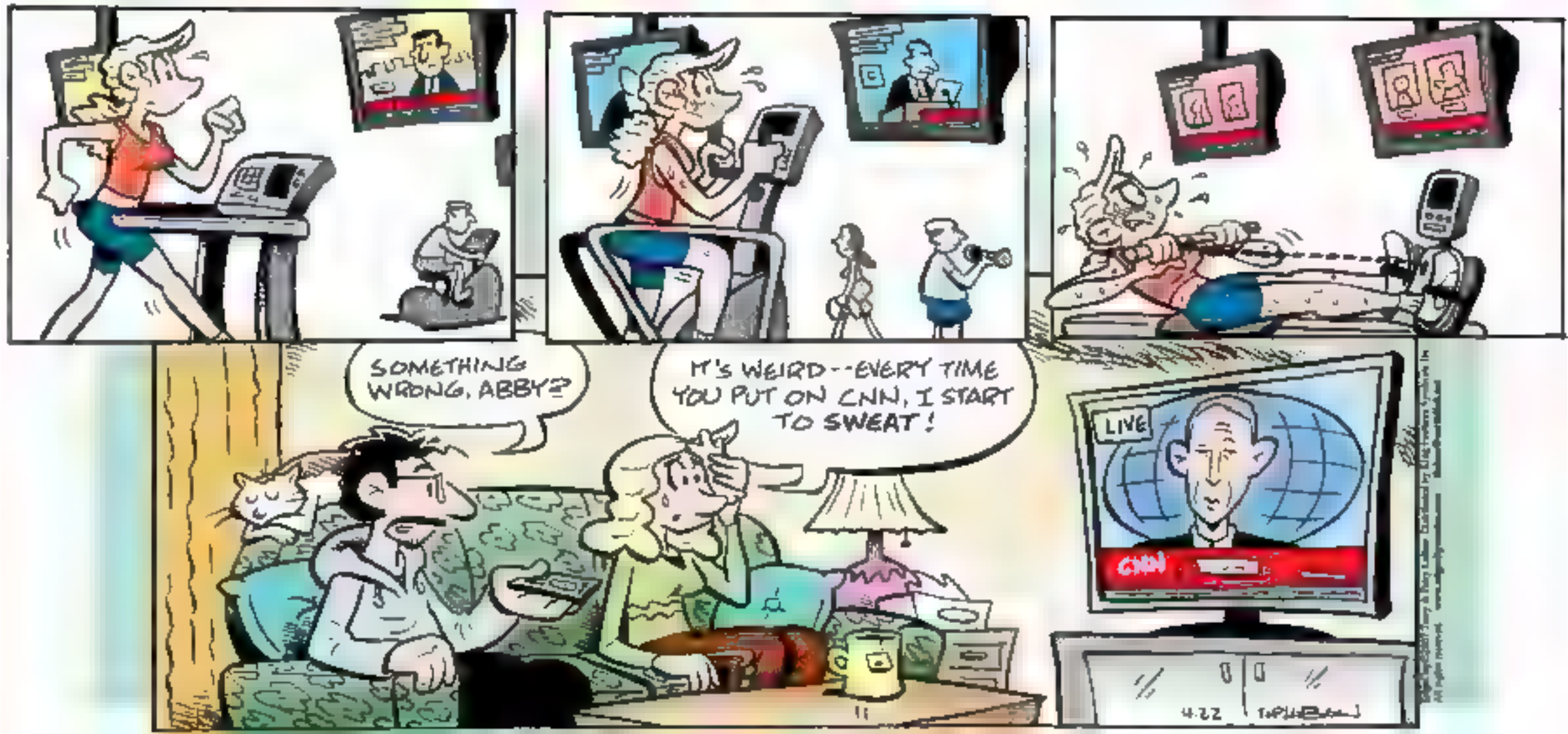
I SPOKE TO COLIN'S TEACHER ABOUT HIS MATH GRADE. SHE SAYS HE JUST NEEDS MORE MOTIVATION.
4-19
WE NEED TO MAKE A PLAN. BALANCE REWARDS AND PENALTIES WHILE NOT UNDERMINING SELF-ESTEEM...
LET'S NOT MAKE THIS TOO COMPLICATED, ABBY.
GET YOUR MATH GRADE TO AN "A" BY THE END OF NEXT WEEK AND I'LL GIVE YOU FIFTY BUCKS.
DEAL!

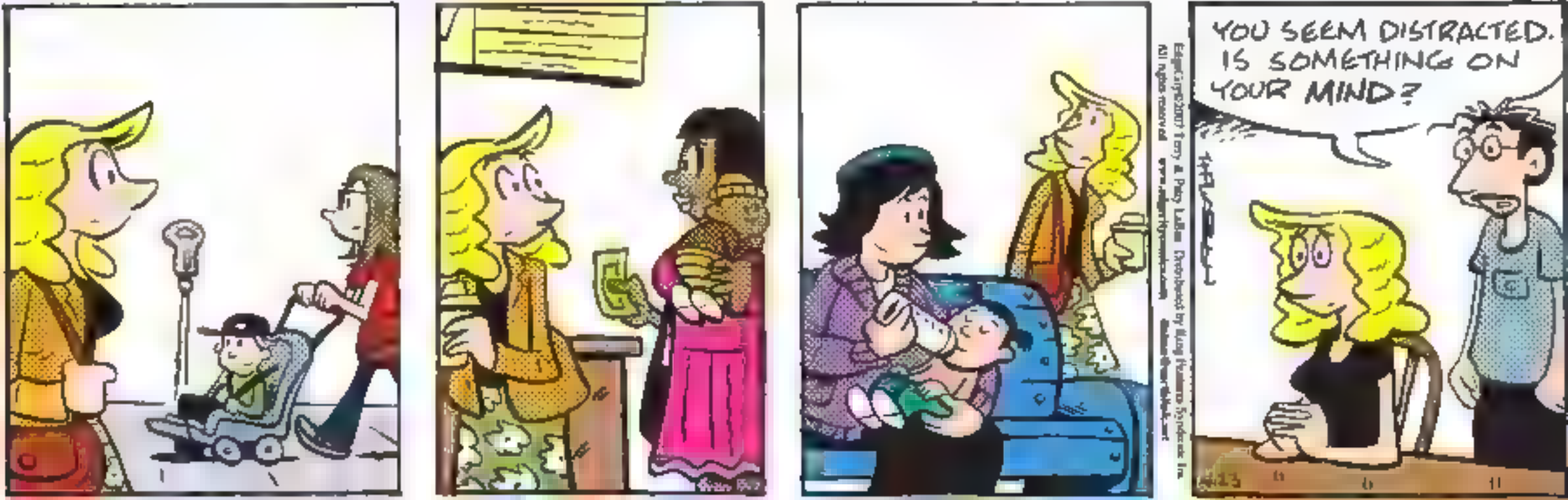

WOW, COLIN--IT LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVEN'T MISSED A MATH ASSIGNMENT ALL WEEK!

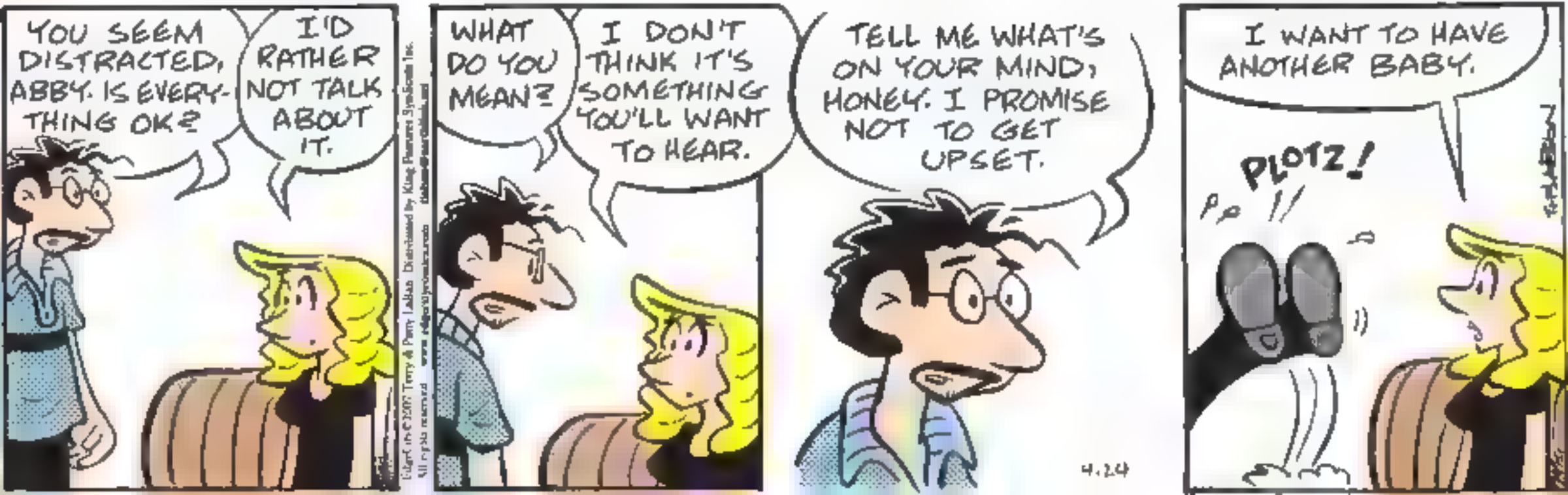

NOT ONLY THAT, YOU'VE DONE WELL ON THEM! YOUR GRADE'S BACK UP TO AN "A"!
4.20

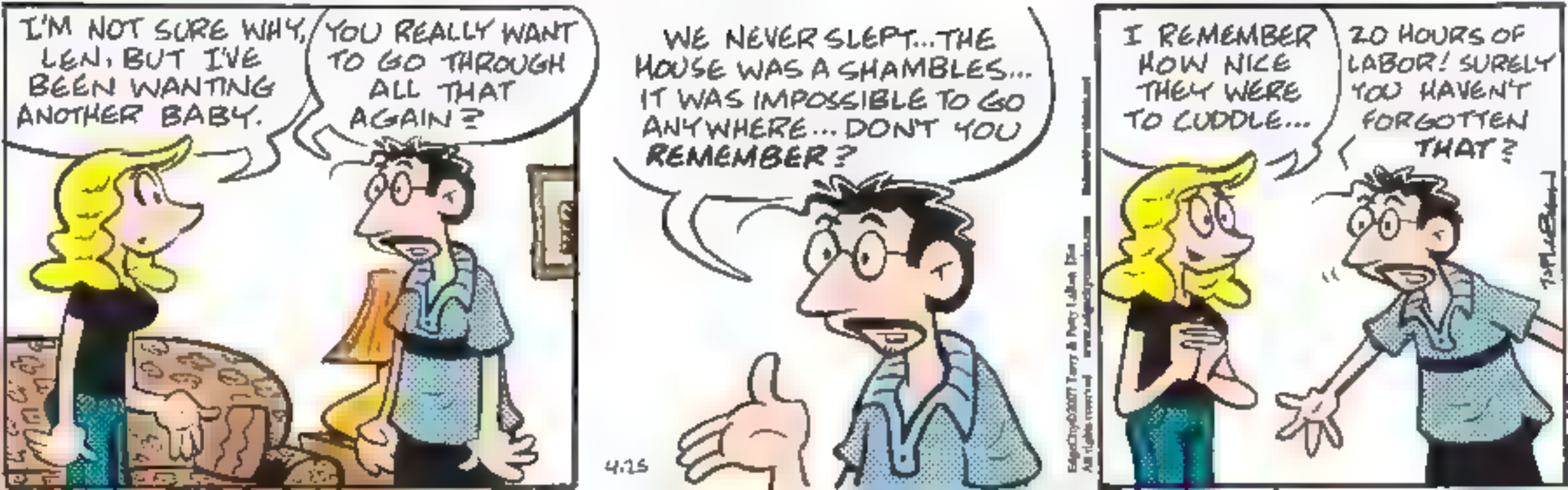

I'M SO PROUD OF YOU, HONEY!
NEVER MIND THAT. JUST GIVE ME MY FIFTY BUCKS.


I'VE GOT TO ADMIT, LEN--OFFERING TO PAY COLIN FOR AN "A" IN MATH REALLY MOTIVATED HIM TO IMPROVE HIS GRADE.
I'M NOT SURE WE OUGHT TO KEEP DOING IT, THOUGH.
WHY NOT? IT WORKS!
I'M JUST WORRIED IT SETS A BAD PRECEDENT.
YOU KNOW, I HAVEN'T BEEN DOING SO WELL IN READING LATELY...


SOMETHING WRONG, ABBY?
IT'S WEIRD--EVERY TIME YOU PUT ON CNN, I START TO SWEAT!
LIVE
CNN
4.22


YOU SEEM DISTRACTED. IS SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND?


YOU SEEM DISTRACTED, ABBY. IS EVERYTHING OK?
I'D RATHER NOT TALK ABOUT IT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I DON'T THINK IT'S SOMETHING YOU'LL WANT TO HEAR.
TELL ME WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, HONEY. I PROMISE NOT TO GET UPSET.
4.24
I WANT TO HAVE ANOTHER BABY.
PLOTZ!


I'M NOT SURE WHY, LEN, BUT I'VE BEEN WANTING ANOTHER BABY.
YOU REALLY WANT TO GO THROUGH ALL THAT AGAIN?
WE NEVER SLEPT...THE HOUSE WAS A SHAMBLES... IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO GO ANYWHERE... DONT YOU REMEMBER?
4.15
I REMEMBER HOW NICE THEY WERE TO CUDDLE...
20 HOURS OF LABOR! SURELY YOU HAVENT FORGOTTEN THAT?

I'M SURPRISED YOU WANT ANOTHER BABY, ABBY. I THOUGHT WE AGREED TWO WERE ENOUGH.

THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN A PART OF ME THAT'S WANTED A BIGGER FAMILY.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU FELT THAT WAY?

SINCE I WAS ABOUT 13, LEN.

4.26

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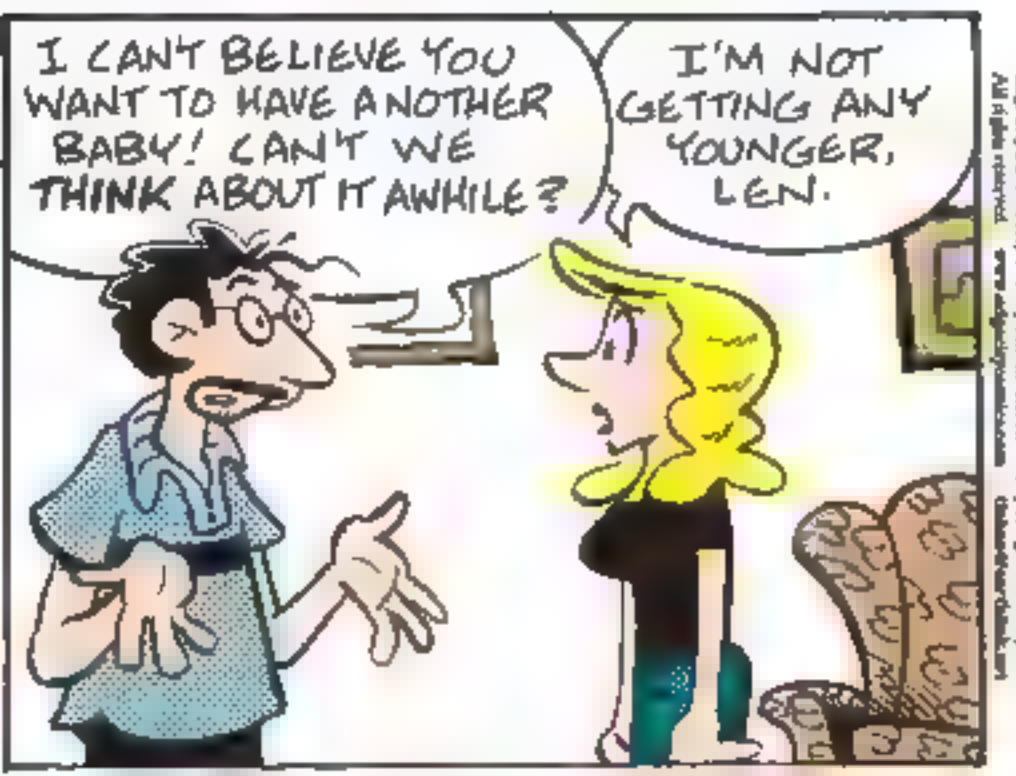
WHEN I READ "CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN."

HOW MANY BABIES ARE WE TALKING ABOUT HERE?!

THE LUKAS



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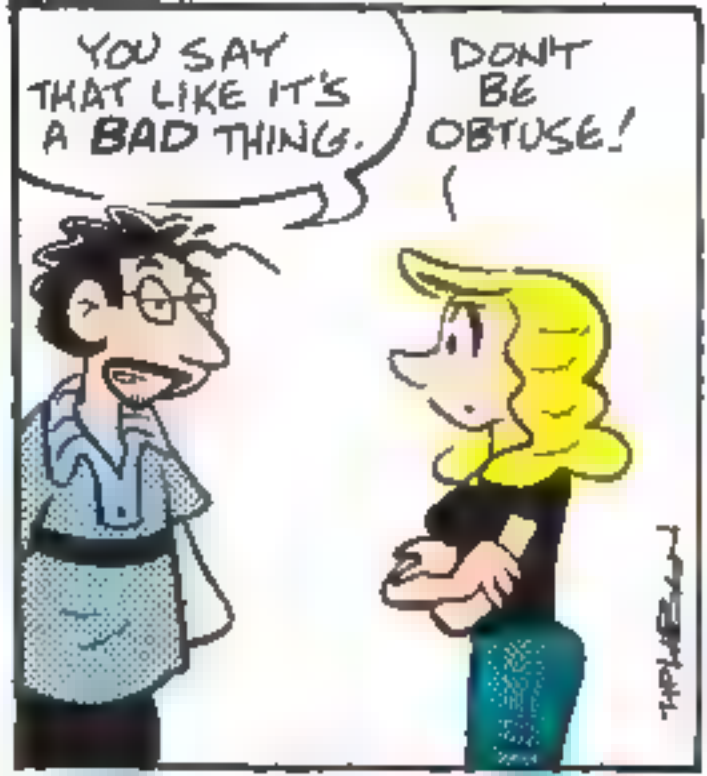
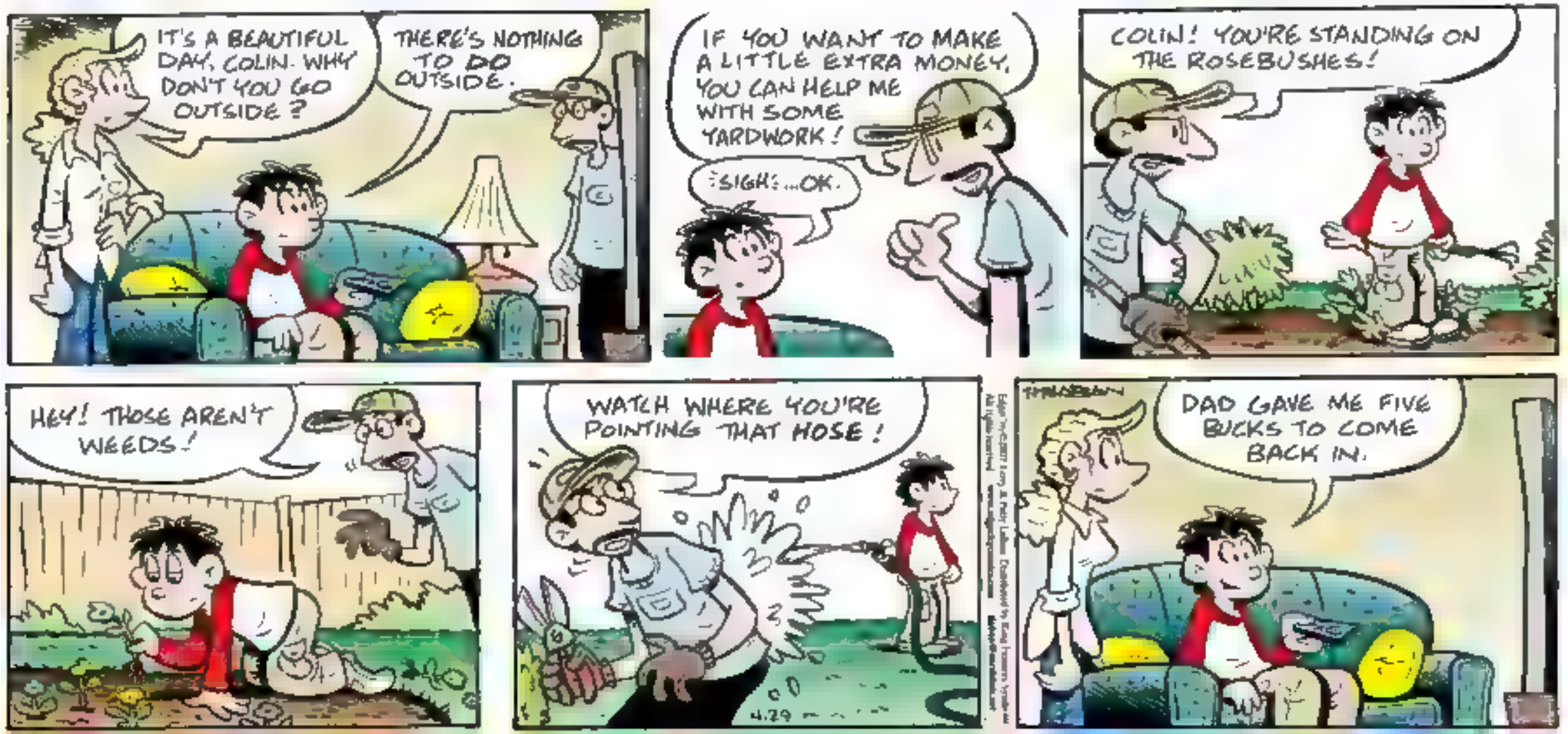
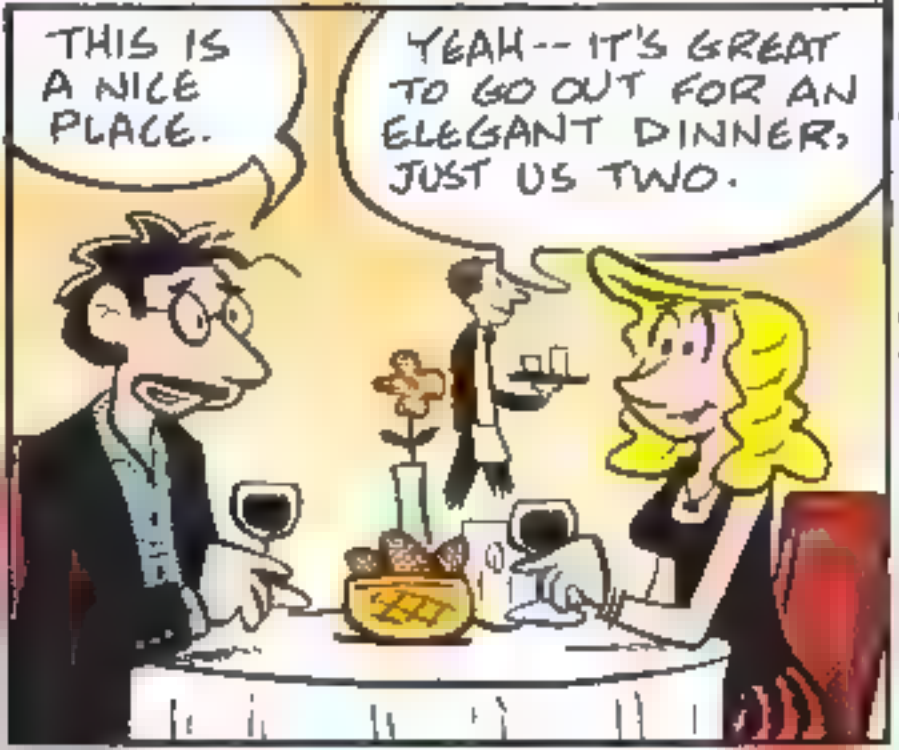


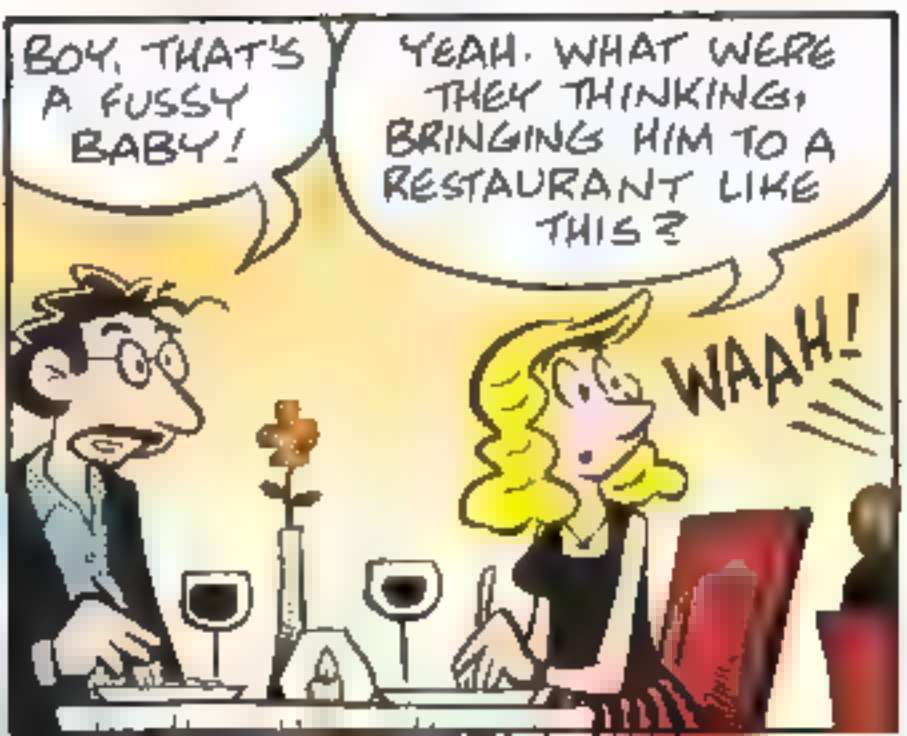
I JUST CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT HAVING ANOTHER BABY, LEN.
I REALLY DON'T WANT TO, ABBY.
IS THERE ANYTHING THAT WOULD CHANGE YOUR MIND?
NOTHING THAT I CAN THINK OF NOW.
4.28
OH, LEN!


IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY, COLIN. WHY DON'T YOU GO OUTSIDE?
THERE'S NOTHING TO DO OUTSIDE.
IF YOU WANT TO MAKE A LITTLE EXTRA MONEY, YOU CAN HELP ME WITH SOME YARDWORK!
:SIGH: ...OK.
COLIN! YOU'RE STANDING ON THE ROSEBUSHES!
HEY! THOSE AREN'T WEEDS!
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE POINTING THAT HOSE!
4.29
DAD GAVE ME FIVE BUCKS TO COME BACK IN.


THIS IS A NICE PLACE.
YEAH -- IT'S GREAT TO GO OUT FOR AN ELEGANT DINNER, JUST US TWO.

IT'D BE A LOT HARDER TO DO IF WE DECIDED TO HAVE ANOTHER KID.
WE COULD STILL EAT OUT WITH A LITTLE BABY.

DON'T KID YOURSELF.
WAAH!!



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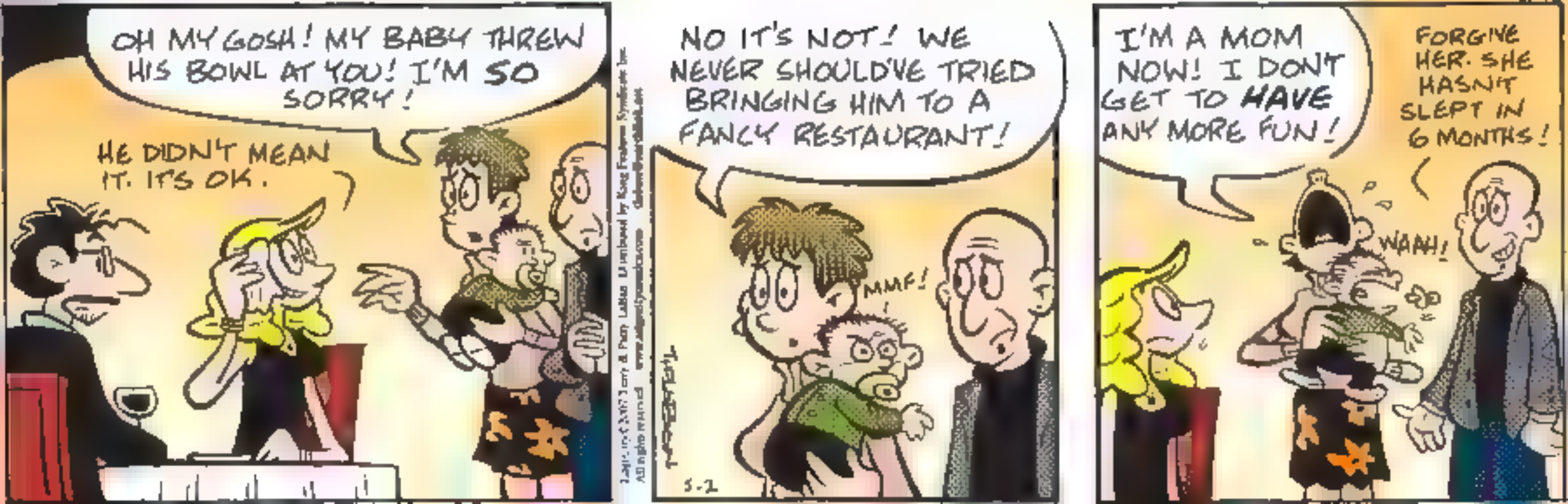
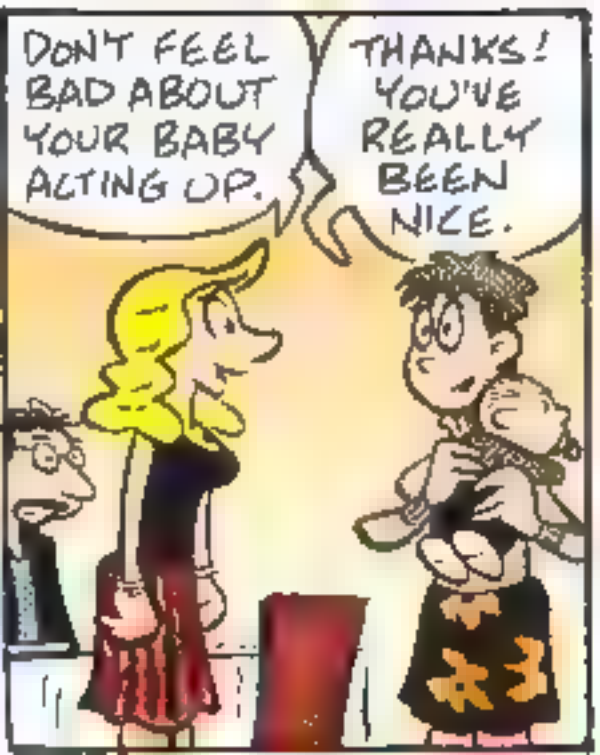

OH MY GOSH! MY BABY THREW HIS BOWL AT YOU! I'M SO SORRY!
HE DIDN'T MEAN IT. IT'S OK.
NO IT'S NOT! WE NEVER SHOULD'VE TRIED BRINGING HIM TO A FANCY RESTAURANT!
MMF!
5-2
I'M A MOM NOW! I DON'T GET TO HAVE ANY MORE FUN!
FORGIVE HER. SHE HASN'T SLEPT IN 6 MONTHS!
WAAH!



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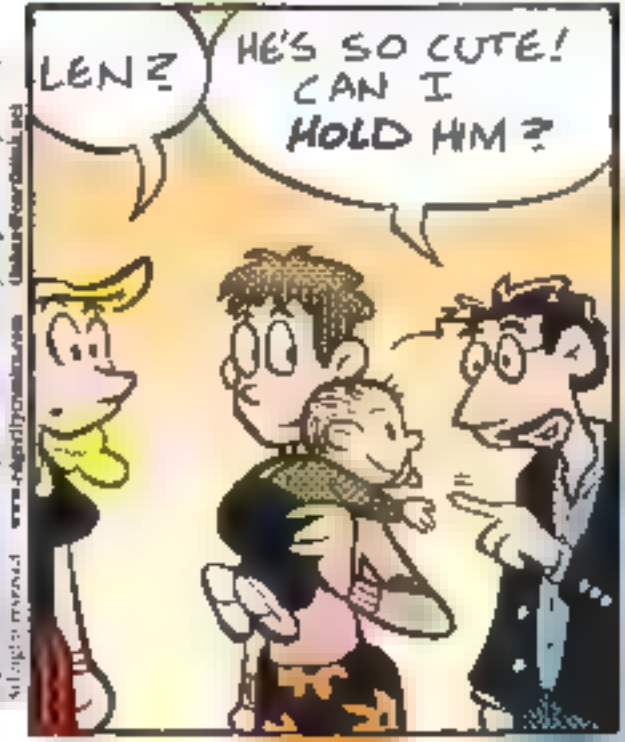
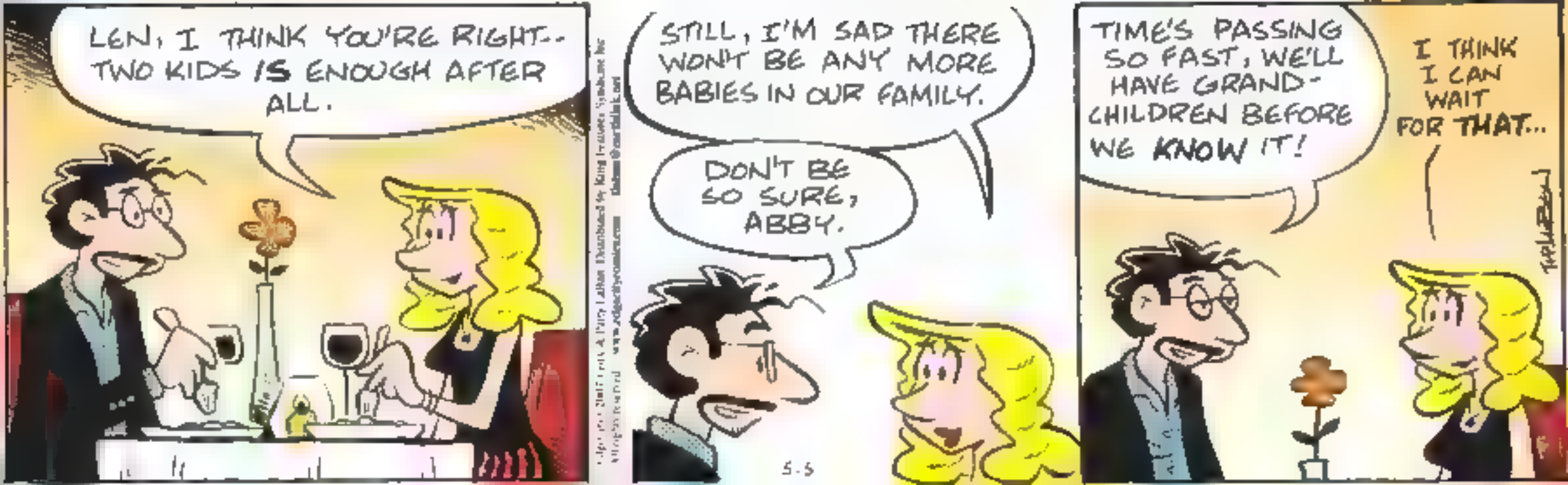
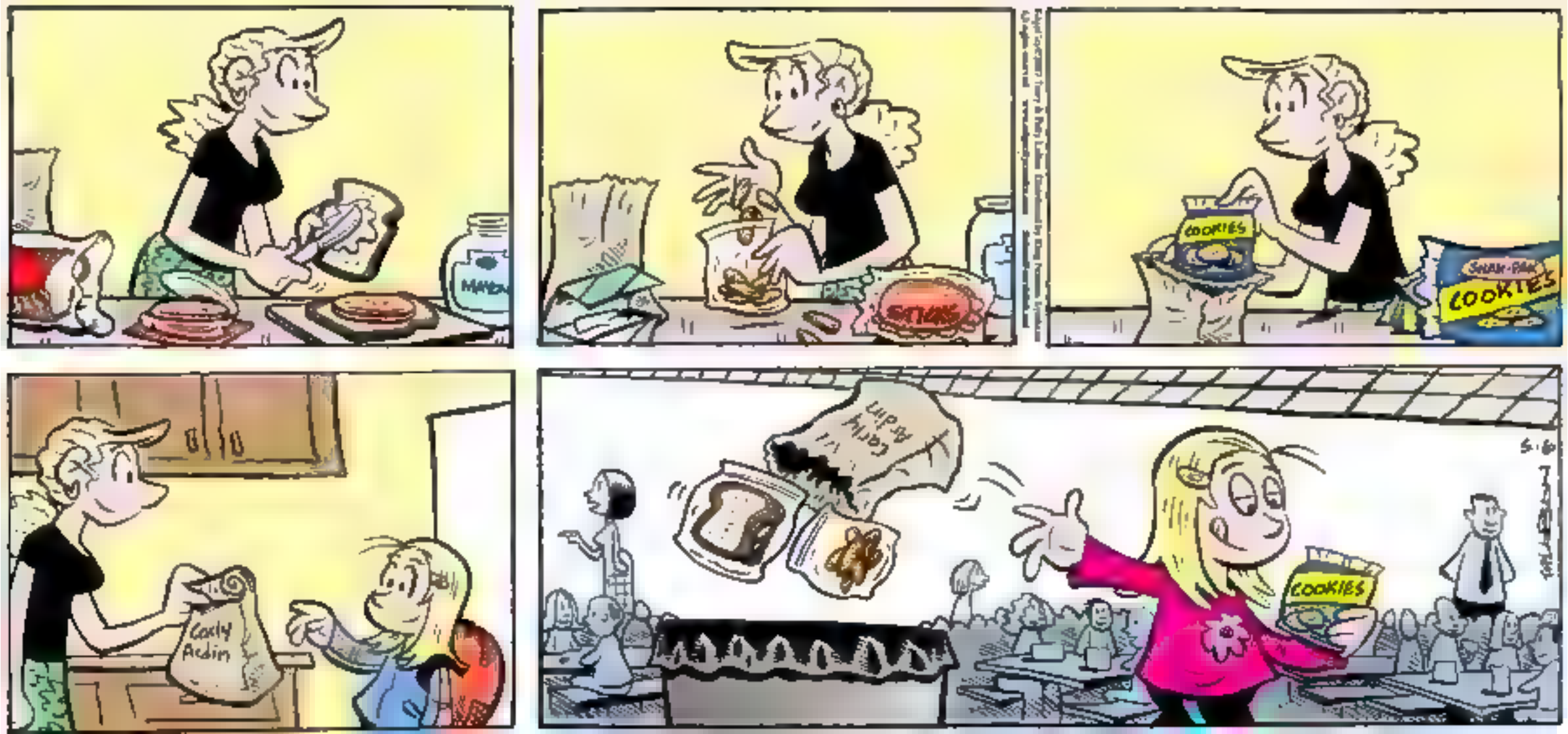
I HOPE MY FUSSY BABY DIDN'T RUIN YOUR EVENING!
NOT AT ALL. IN FACT, I'M GLAD HE WAS HERE.

I'VE BEEN CONSIDERING HAVING ANOTHER CHILD, BUT SEEING YOU HAS MADE ME THINK THAT TWO'S ENOUGH AFTER ALL.
3.4

ANYHOW, MY HUSBAND SAYS HE'S THROUGH WITH BABIES. RIGHT, LEN?


LEN?
HE'S SO CUTE! CAN I HOLD HIM?


LEN, I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.. TWO KIDS IS ENOUGH AFTER ALL.
STILL, I'M SAD THERE WON'T BE ANY MORE BABIES IN OUR FAMILY.
DON'T BE SO SURE, ABBY.
TIME'S PASSING SO FAST, WE'LL HAVE GRAND-CHILDREN BEFORE WE KNOW IT!
I THINK I CAN WAIT FOR THAT...


COOKIES
COOKIES
COOKIES
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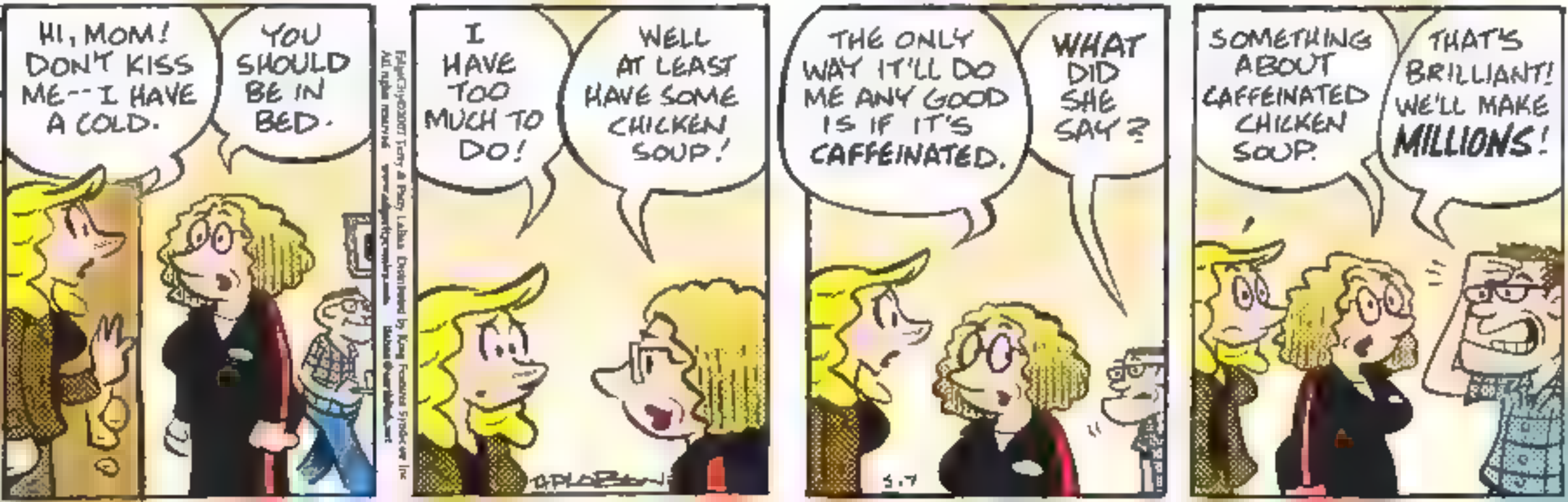
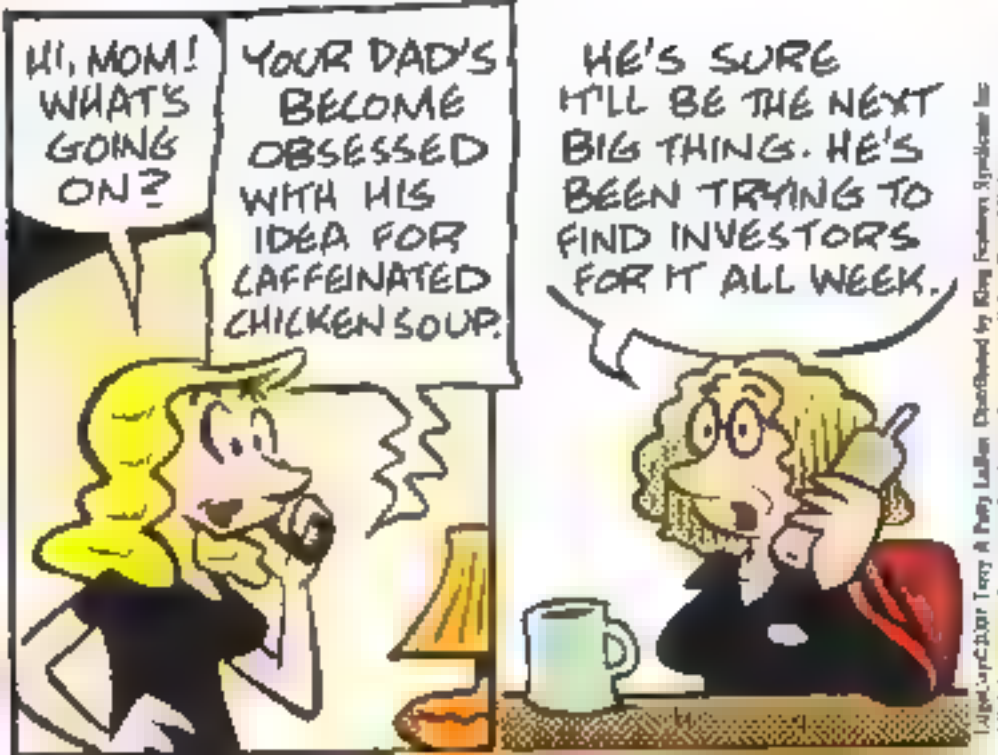
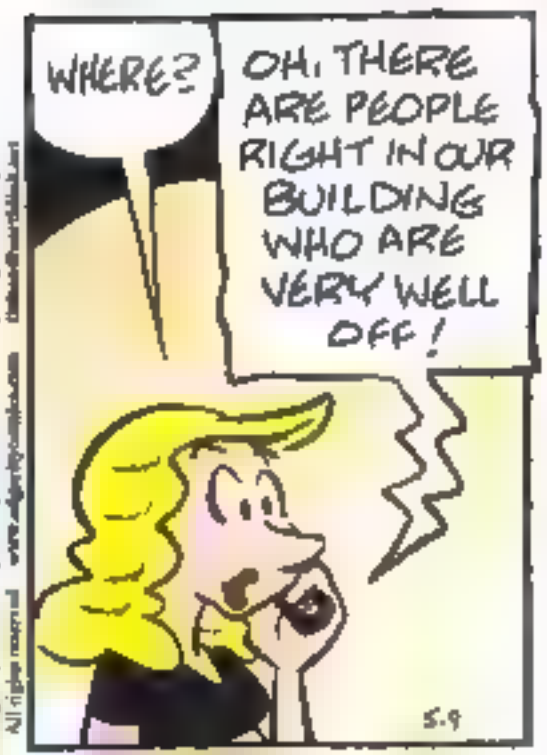
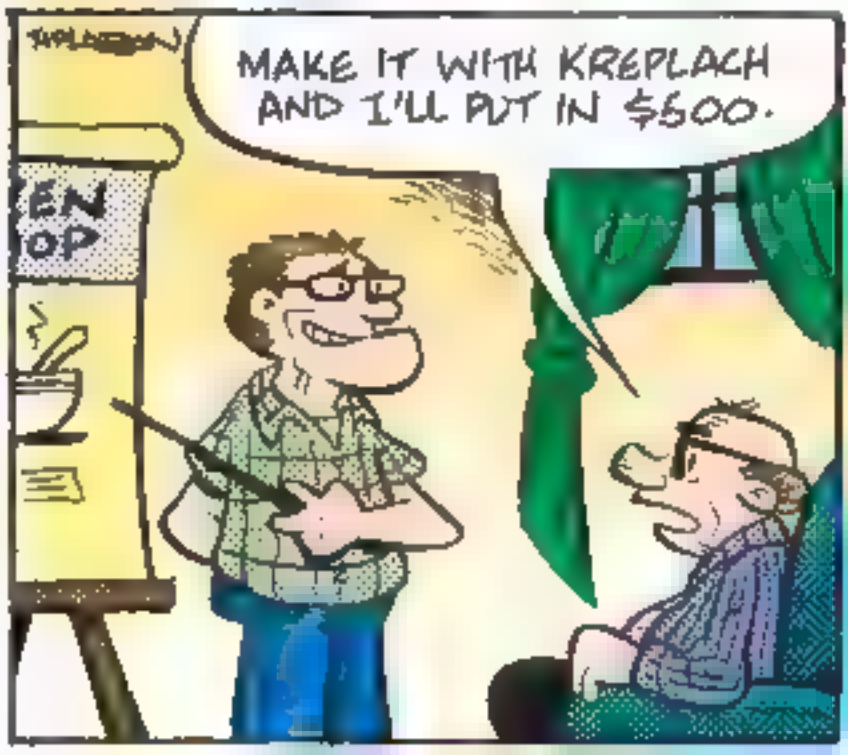
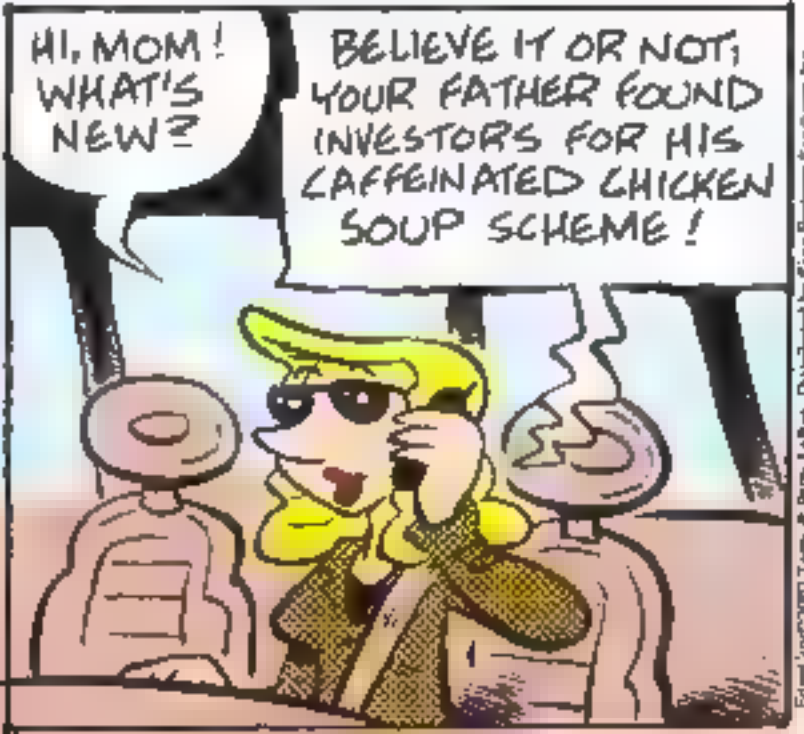

HI, MOM! DON'T KISS ME--I HAVE A COLD.
YOU SHOULD BE IN BED.
I HAVE TOO MUCH TO DO!
WELL AT LEAST HAVE SOME CHICKEN SOUP!
THE ONLY WAY IT'LL DO ME ANY GOOD IS IF IT'S CAFFEINATED.
WHAT DID SHE SAY?
SOMETHING ABOUT CAFFEINATED CHICKEN SOUP.
THAT'S BRILLIANT! WE'LL MAKE MILLIONS!

CAFFEINATED CHICKEN SOUP! IT'S A MILLION-DOLLAR IDEA!
IT IS?
THERE'S GOTTA BE A HUGE MARKET! IT'S THE PERFECT COMFORT FOOD FOR PEOPLE ON THE GO!
S-8
WE'VE GOT TO HOP ON THIS A.S.A.P.! EDNA, I'LL NEED YOUR HELP! WHAT DO YOU SAY?
I SAY IT SOUNDS DISGUSTING.
ABBY! TALK TO HER!


HI, MOM! WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOUR DAD'S BECOME OBSESSED WITH HIS IDEA FOR CAFFEINATED CHICKEN SOUP.
HE'S SURE IT'LL BE THE NEXT BIG THING. HE'S BEEN TRYING TO FIND INVESTORS FOR IT ALL WEEK.


WHERE?
OH, THERE ARE PEOPLE RIGHT IN OUR BUILDING WHO ARE VERY WELL OFF!


MAKE IT WITH KREPLACH AND I'LL PUT IN $500.



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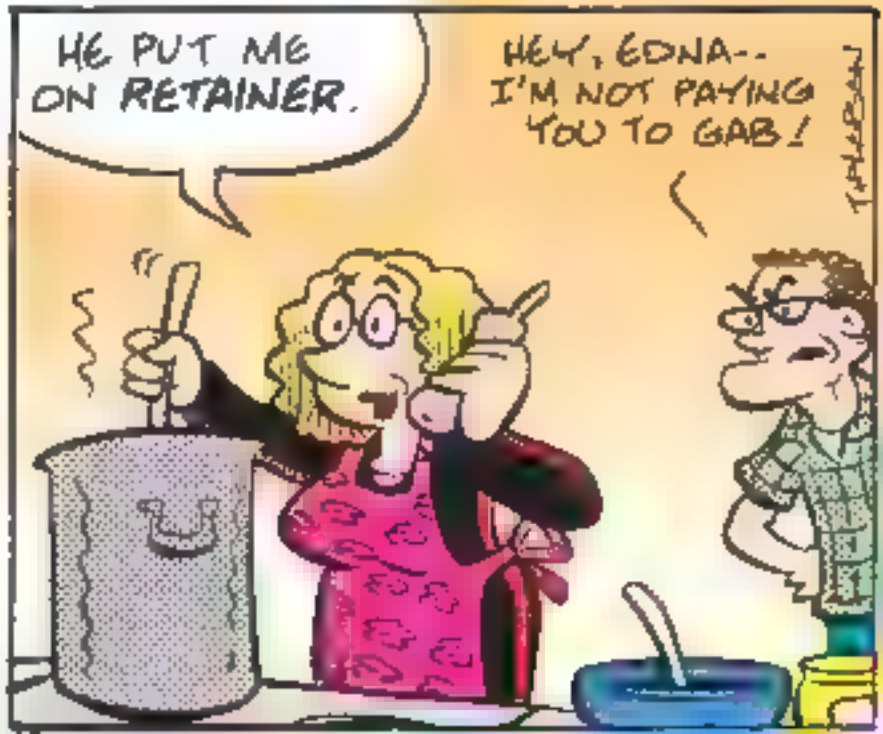
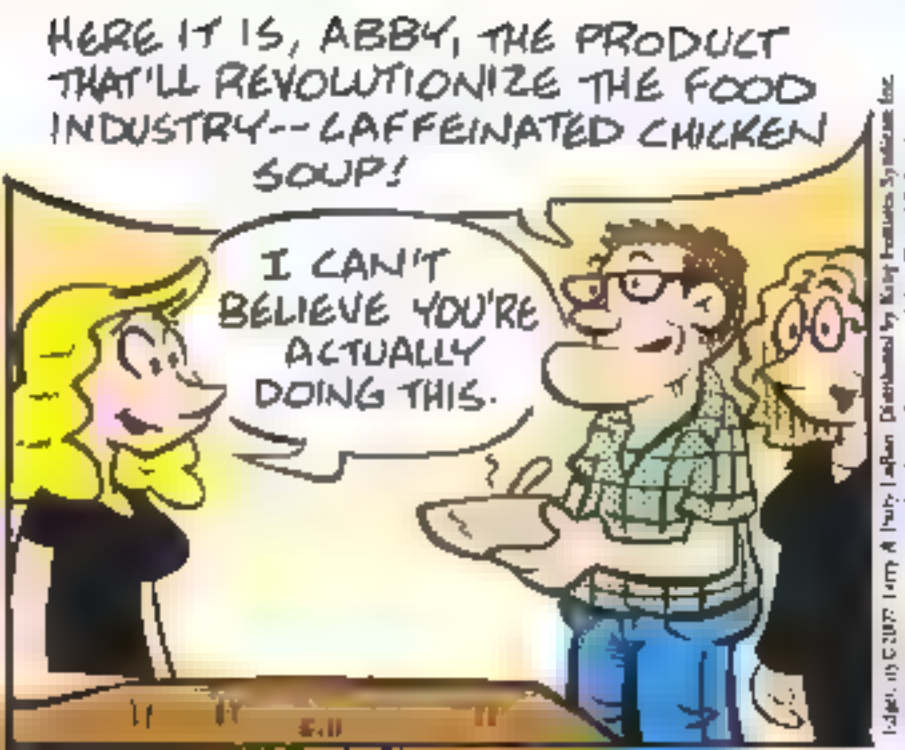
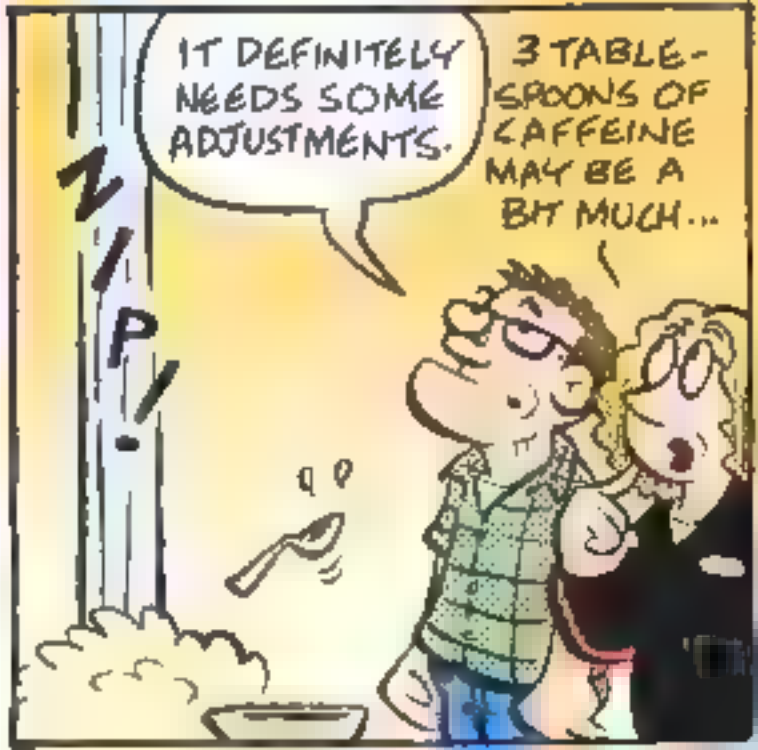
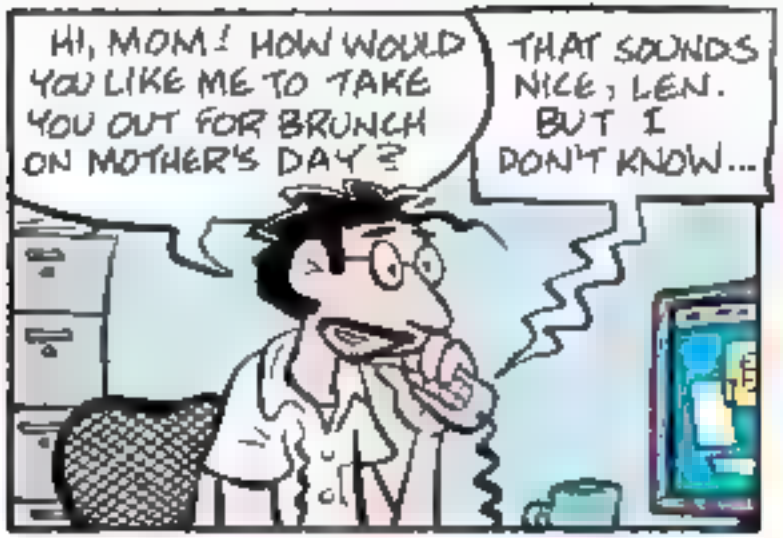


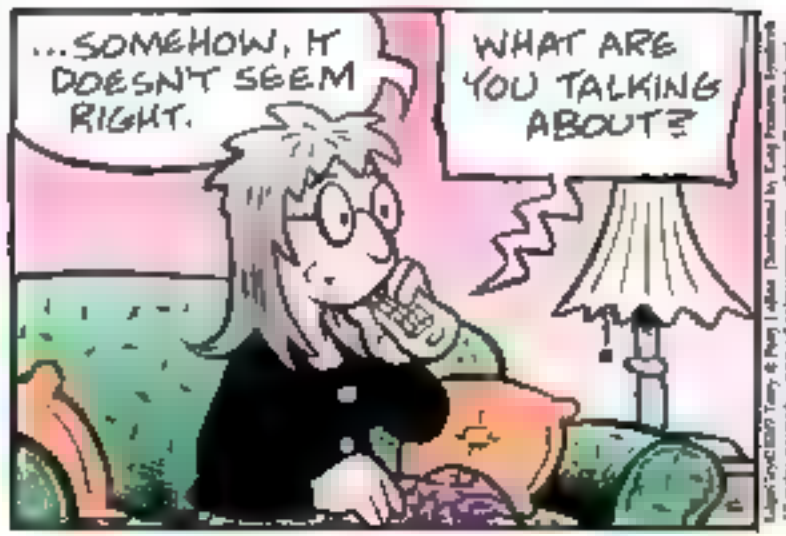

HERE IT IS, ABBY, THE PRODUCT THAT'LL REVOLUTIONIZE THE FOOD INDUSTRY--CAFFEINATED CHICKEN SOUP!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE ACTUALLY DOING THIS.

REMEMBER--WE'RE STILL WORKING ON THE RECIPE.
SIP!


IT DEFINITELY NEEDS SOME ADJUSTMENTS.
3 TABLE-SPOONS OF CAFFEINE MAY BE A BIT MUCH...
ZIP!

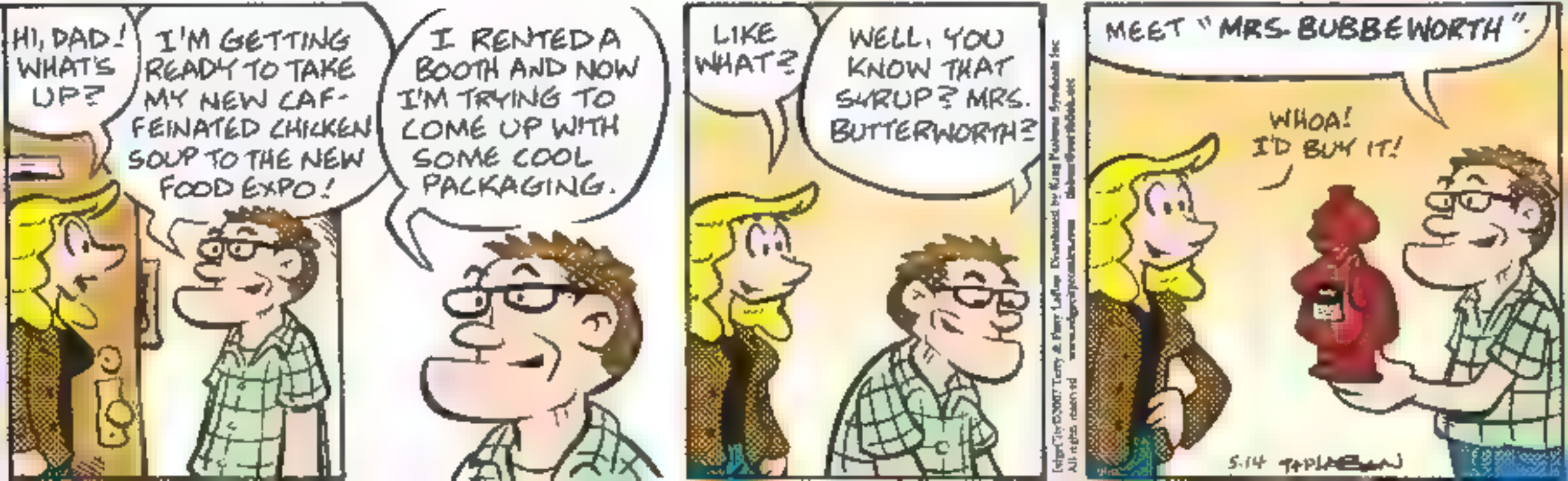
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO COME UP WITH A NAME FOR MY CAFFEINATED CHICKEN SOUP.
SOMETHING THAT LETS PEOPLE KNOW IT'S BOTH AN OLD-FASHIONED COMFORT FOOD AND A HIGH-ENERGY DRINK.
5.12
"RED BUBBE"?
CATCHY, DON'T YOU THINK?

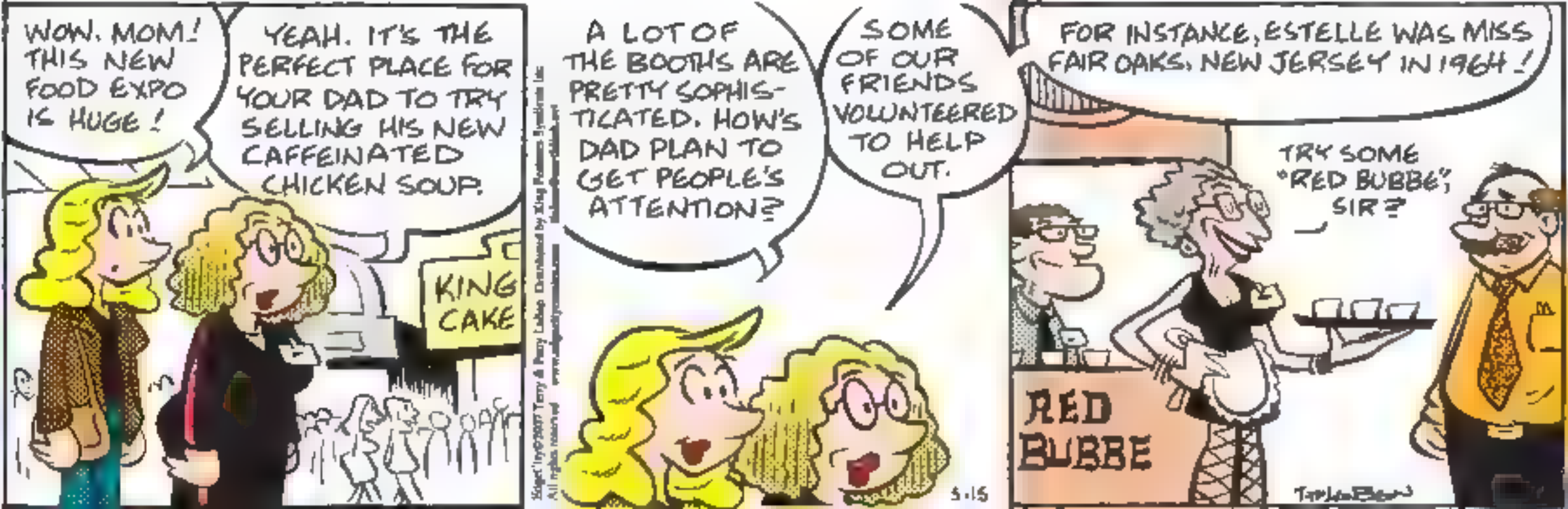

HI, MOM! HOW WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO TAKE YOU OUT FOR BRUNCH ON MOTHER'S DAY?
THAT SOUNDS NICE, LEN. BUT I DON'T KNOW...

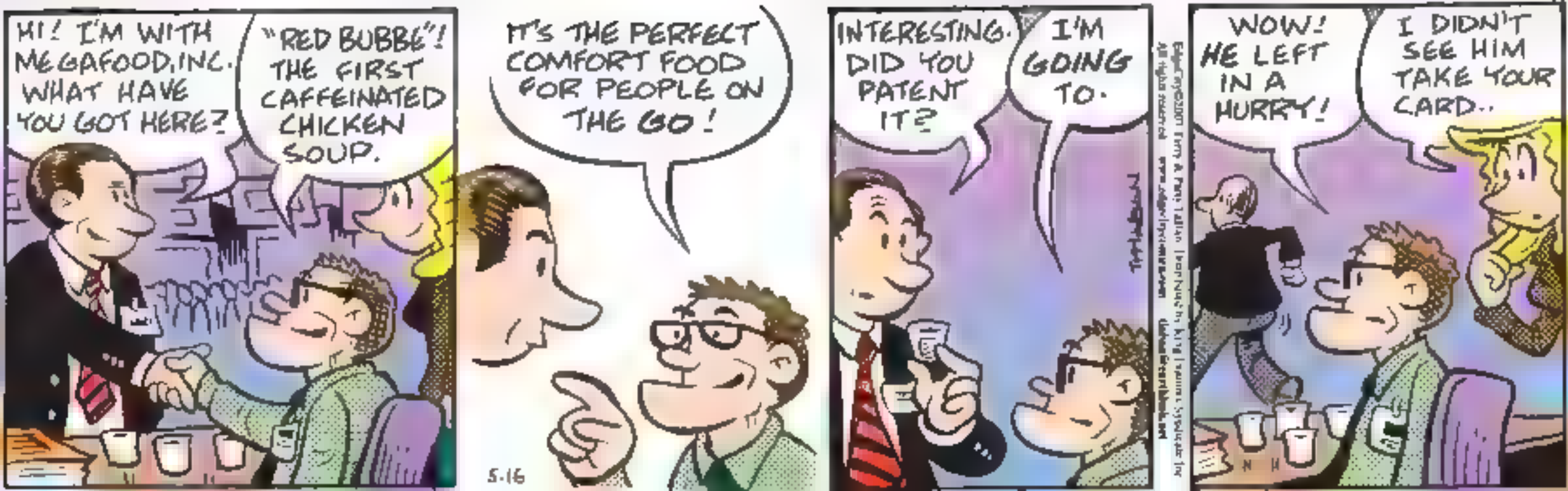

...SOMEHOW, IT DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

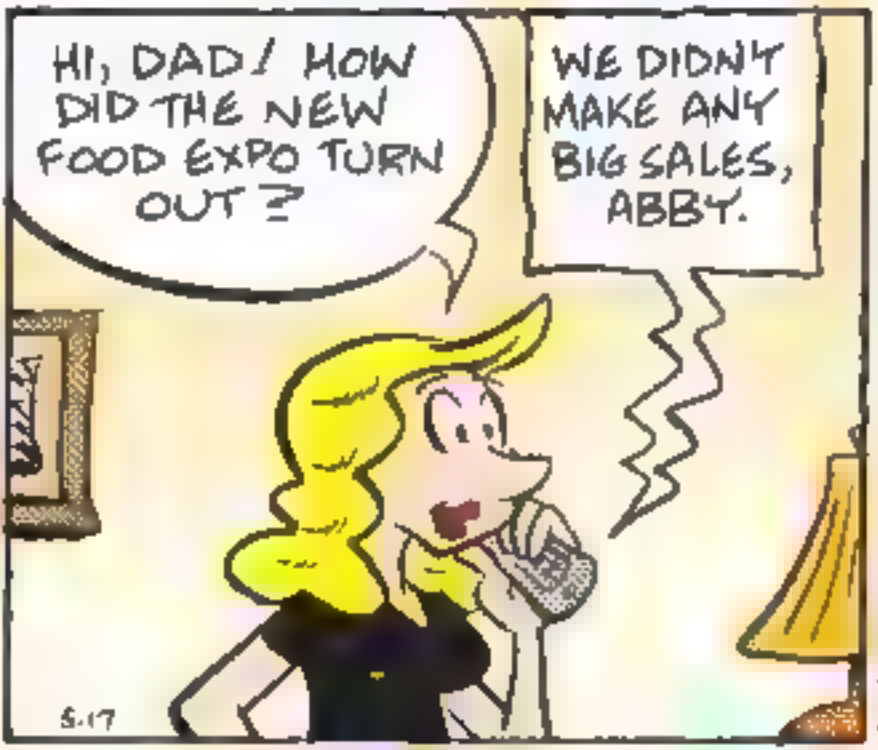
HOW CAN I ENJOY MYSELF WHEN I KNOW SO MANY MOTHERS WHO DON'T HAVE ANYONE TO TAKE THEM OUT ON MOTHER'S DAY?

I WANTED TO TAKE YOU SOMEWHERE NICER, BUT BRUNCH FOR 15 CAN GET PRICEY.
NEVER MIND, HONEY! THIS IS PERFECT!


HI, DAD! WHAT'S UP?
I'M GETTING READY TO TAKE MY NEW CAFFEINATED CHICKEN SOUP TO THE NEW FOOD EXPO!
I RENTED A BOOTH AND NOW I'M TRYING TO COME UP WITH SOME COOL PACKAGING.
LIKE WHAT?
WELL, YOU KNOW THAT SYRUP? MRS. BUTTERWORTH?
MEET "MRS. BUBBEWORTH".
WHOA! I'D BUY IT!
5-14


WOW, MOM! THIS NEW FOOD EXPO IS HUGE!
YEAH. IT'S THE PERFECT PLACE FOR YOUR DAD TO TRY SELLING HIS NEW CAFFEINATED CHICKEN SOUP.
KING CAKE
A LOT OF THE BOOTHS ARE PRETTY SOPHISTICATED. HOW'S DAD PLAN TO GET PEOPLE'S ATTENTION?
SOME OF OUR FRIENDS VOLUNTEERED TO HELP OUT.
FOR INSTANCE, ESTELLE WAS MISS FAIR OAKS, NEW JERSEY IN 1964!
TRY SOME "RED BUBBE", SIR?
RED BUBBE
5-15


HI! I'M WITH MEGAFOOD, INC. WHAT HAVE YOU GOT HERE?
"RED BUBBE"! THE FIRST CAFFEINATED CHICKEN SOUP.
IT'S THE PERFECT COMFORT FOOD FOR PEOPLE ON THE GO!
5-16
INTERESTING. DID YOU PATENT IT?
I'M GOING TO.
WOW! HE LEFT IN A HURRY!
I DIDN'T SEE HIM TAKE YOUR CARD..



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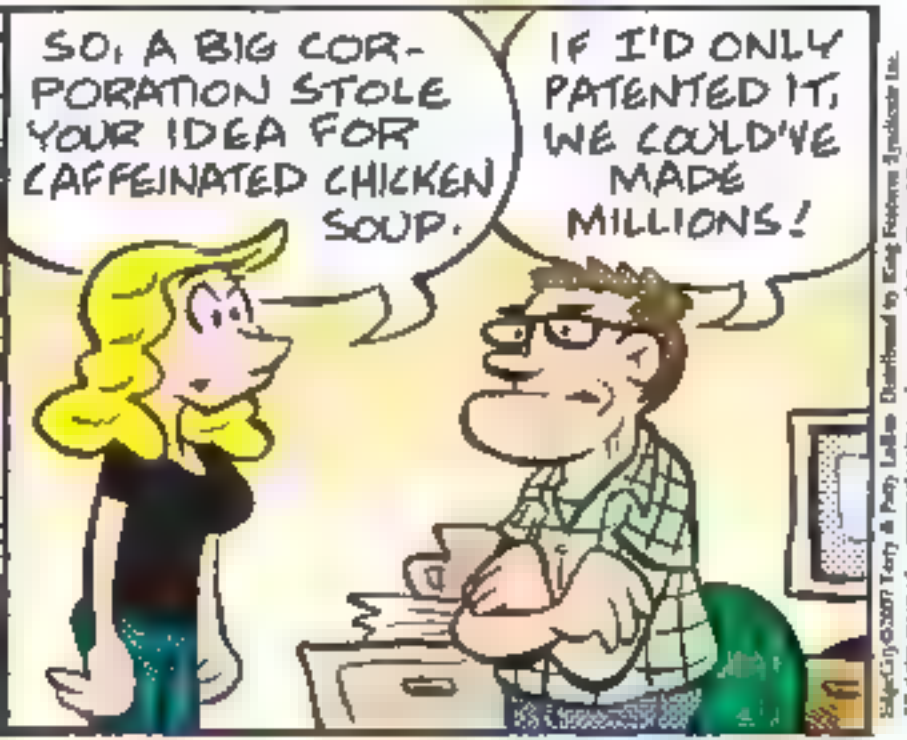
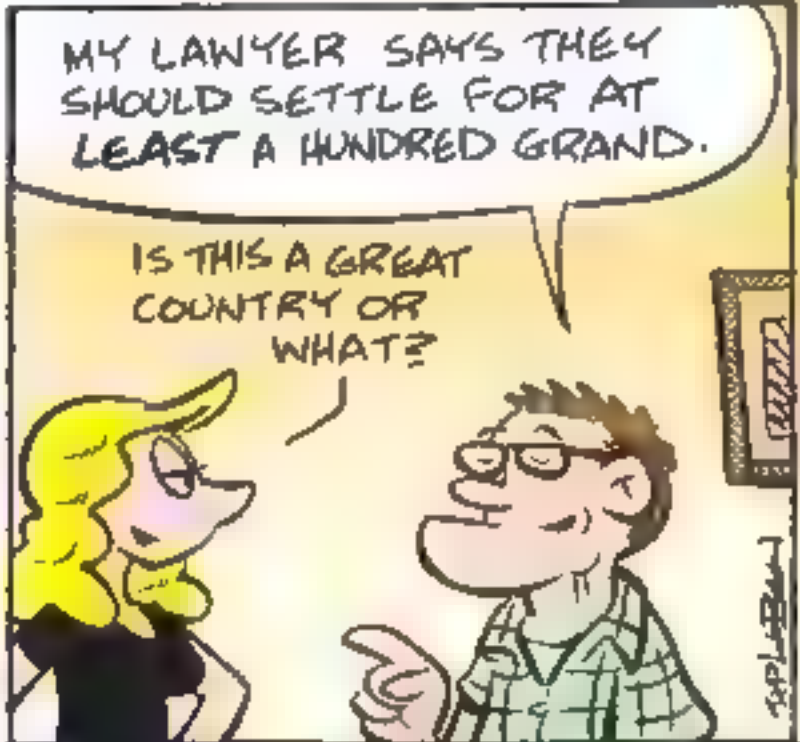
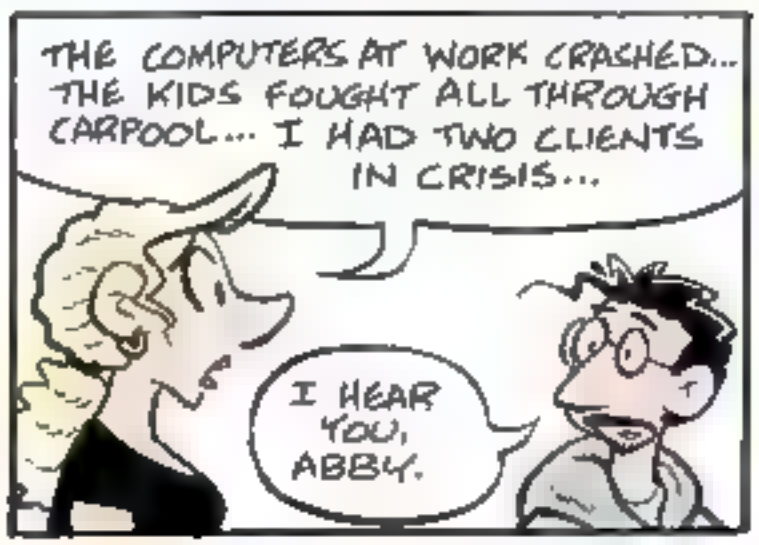
HI, DAD! HOW'S IT GOING?
NOT SO GOOD. TAKE A LOOK AT THE LATEST NEW FOOD JOURNAL!
NEW FOOD JOURNAL
"MEGAFOOD, INC. INTRODUCES 'LIQUID GOLD', A NEW CAFFEINATED CHICKEN SOUP"!
THAT'S THE COMPANY I SPOKE TO AT THE FOOD EXPO!
NEW FOOD
THEY STOLE MY IDEA, ABBY!
WOW!
I GUESS YOU WERE ON TO SOME-THING!
I KNEW THAT!
5-18


SO, A BIG CORPORATION STOLE YOUR IDEA FOR CAFFEINATED CHICKEN SOUP.
IF I'D ONLY PATENTED IT, WE COULD'VE MADE MILLIONS!

BUT ALL'S NOT LOST! IN EVERY CLOUD, THERE'S A SILVER LINING!

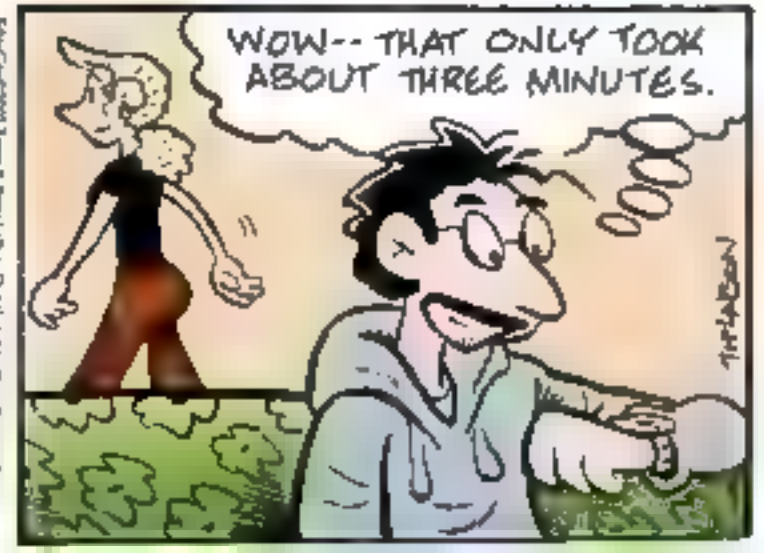

MY LAWYER SAYS THEY SHOULD SETTLE FOR AT LEAST A HUNDRED GRAND.
IS THIS A GREAT COUNTRY OR WHAT?

BOY, LEN-- I HAD A TOUGH DAY.

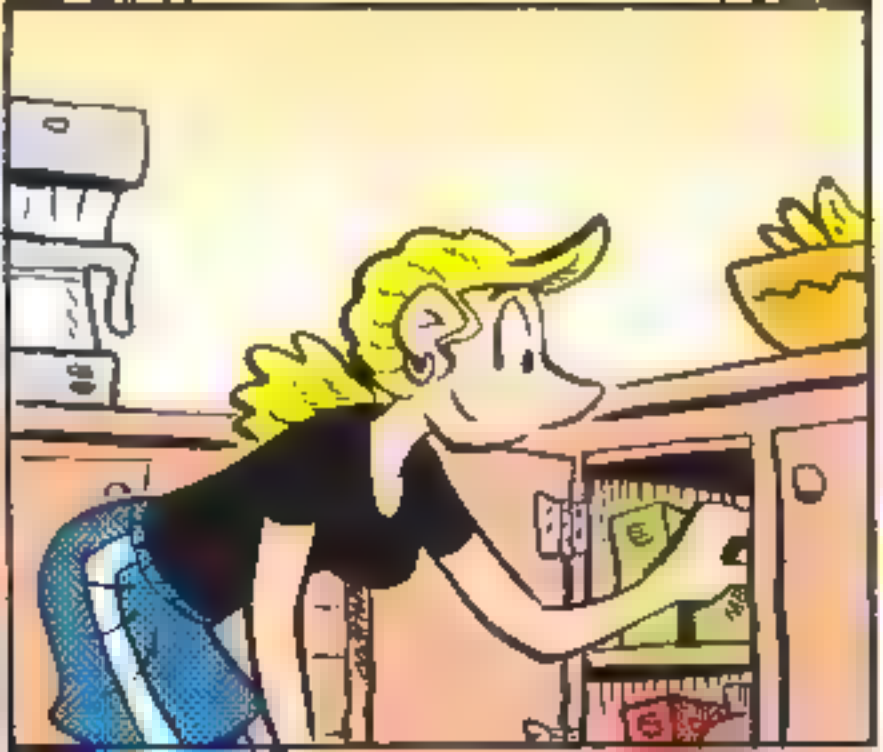

THE COMPUTERS AT WORK CRASHED... THE KIDS FOUGHT ALL THROUGH CARPOOL... I HAD TWO CLIENTS IN CRISIS...
I HEAR YOU, ABBY.

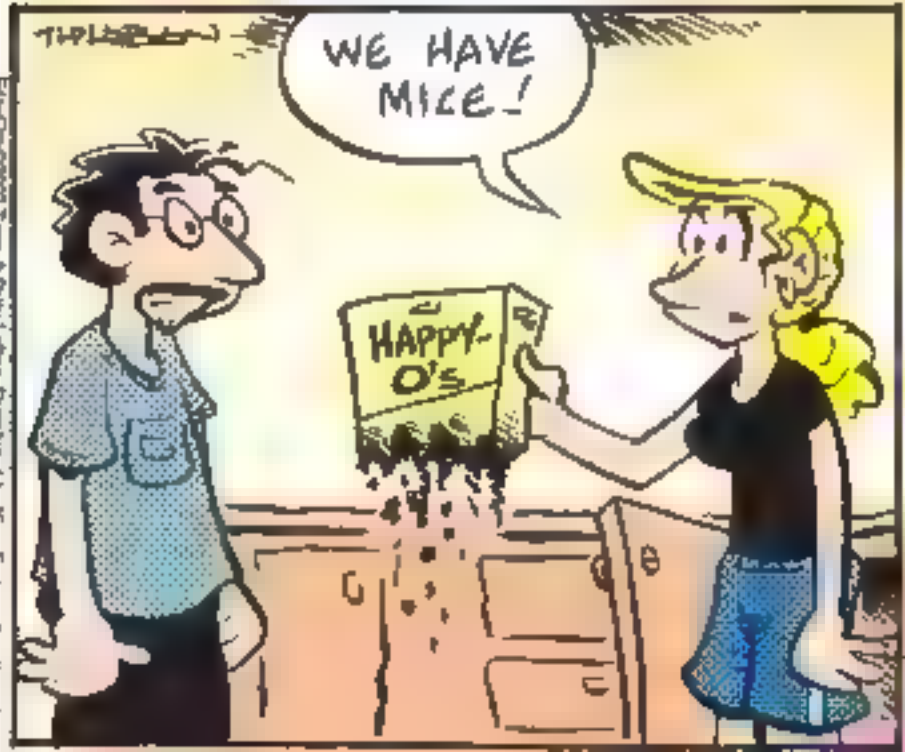
YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO PUT OUT FIRES SINCE THIS MORNING.
YOU MUST FEEL TIRED AND OVERWHELMED.
AM I GETTING IT?
6.30

EXACTLY! THANKS, LEN!


WOW-- THAT ONLY TOOK ABOUT THREE MINUTES.

AND TO THINK I USED TO WONDER WHAT GOOD IT WAS TO LEARN ALL THOSE LISTENING TECHNIQUES!





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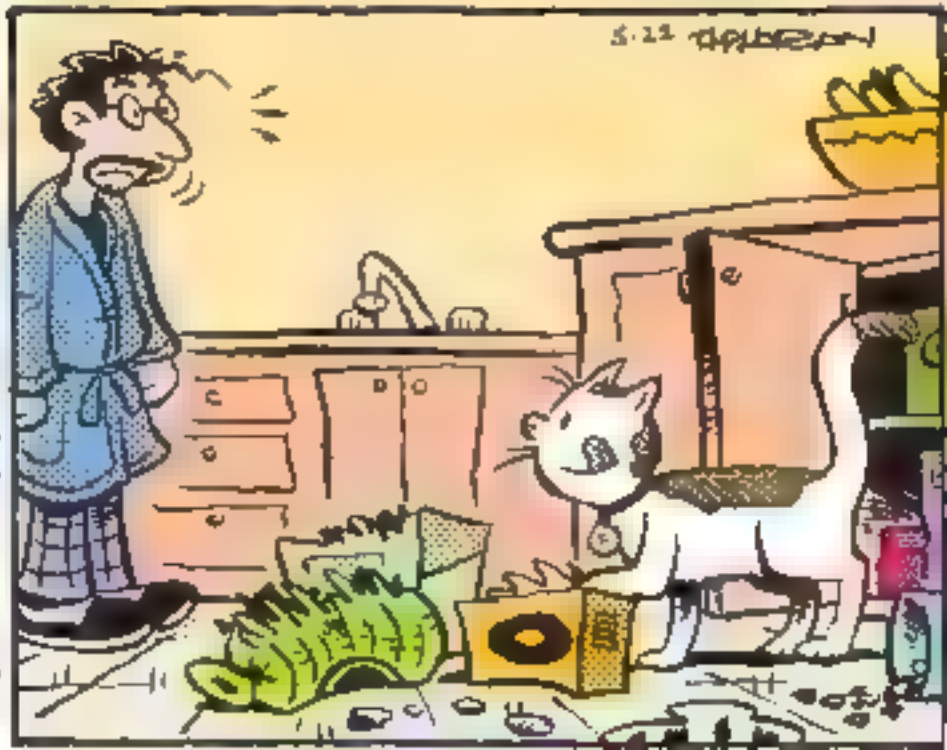

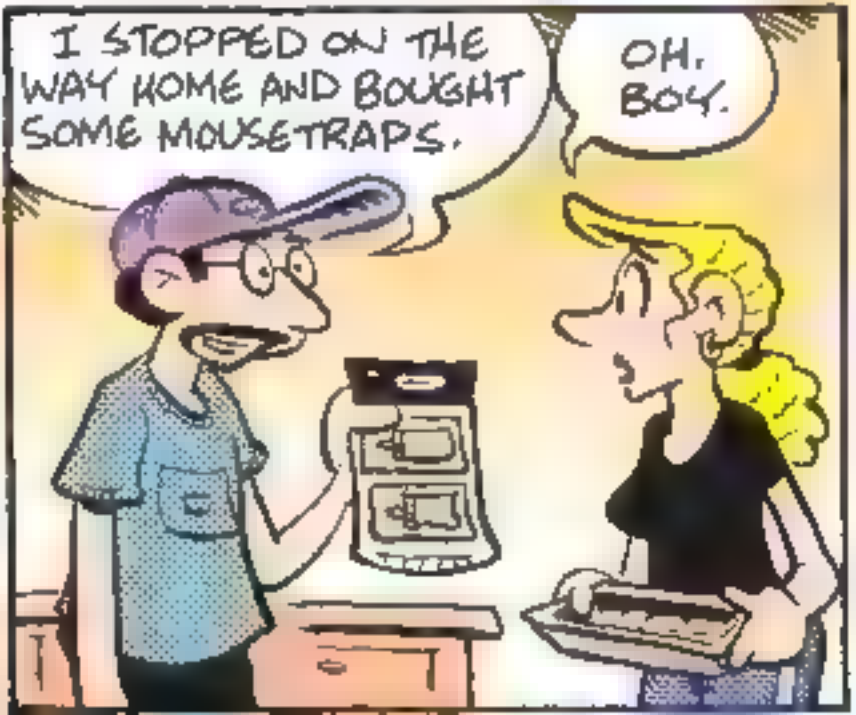

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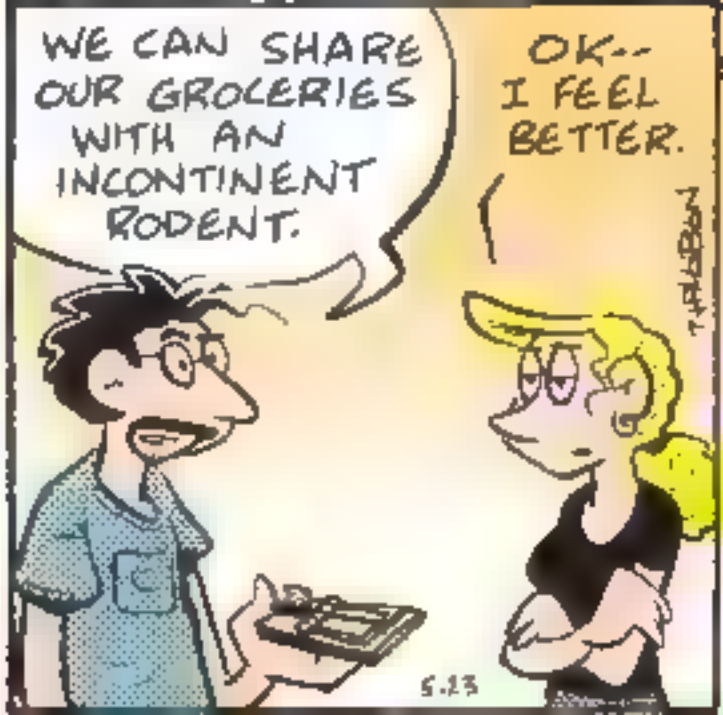

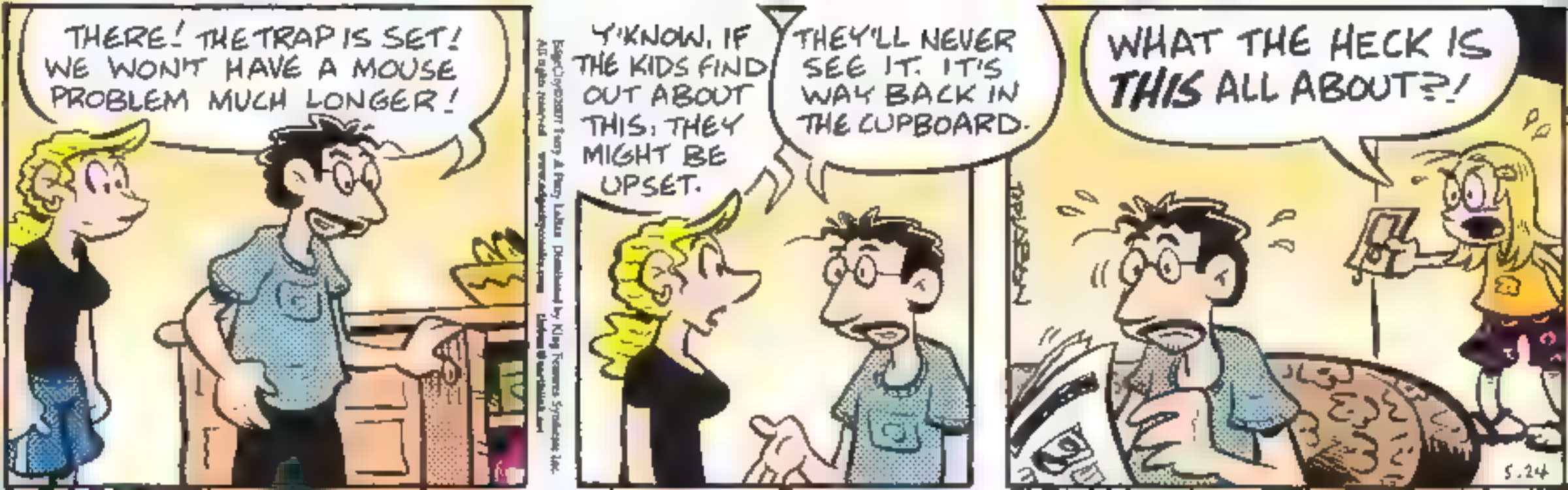

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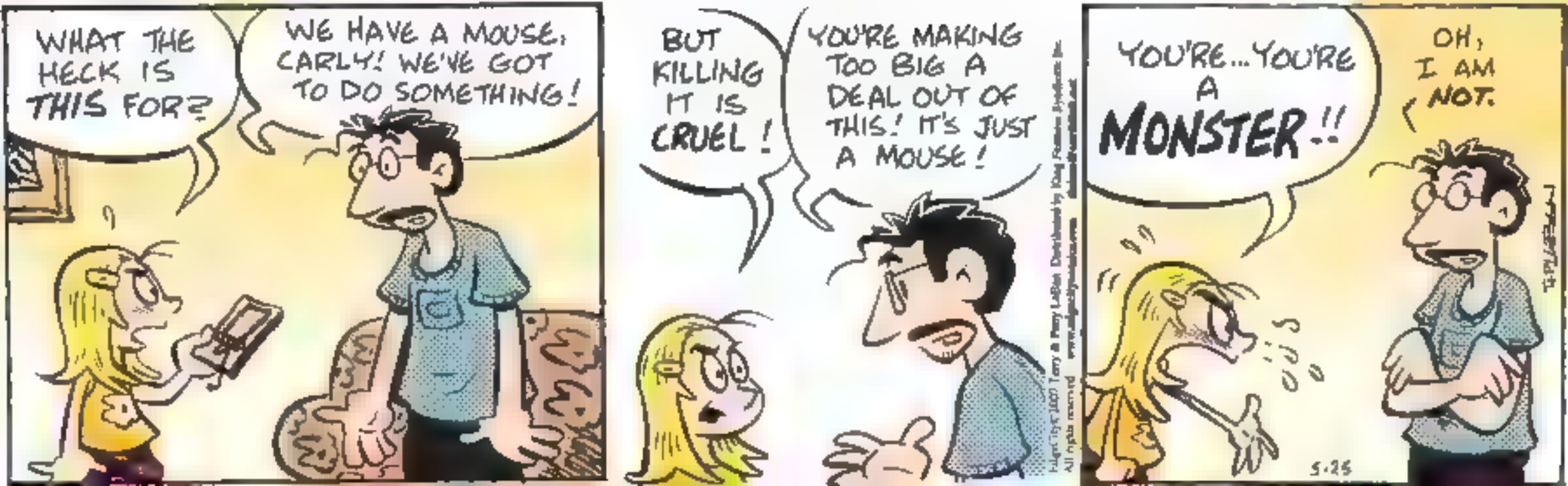
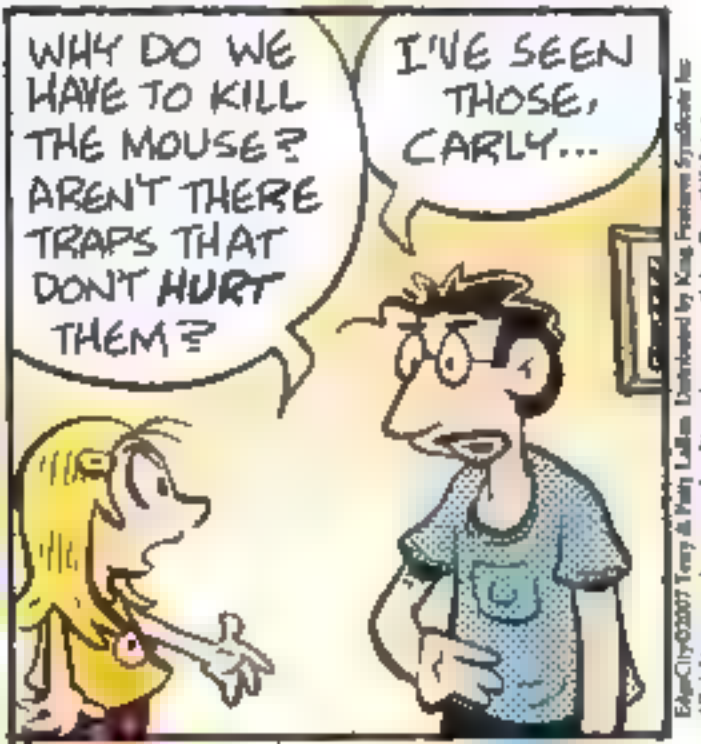

WHAT THE HECK IS THIS FOR?
WE HAVE A MOUSE, CARLY! WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
BUT KILLING IT IS CRUEL!
YOU'RE MAKING TOO BIG A DEAL OUT OF THIS! IT'S JUST A MOUSE!
YOU'RE...YOU'RE A MONSTER!!
OH, I AM NOT.
5-25



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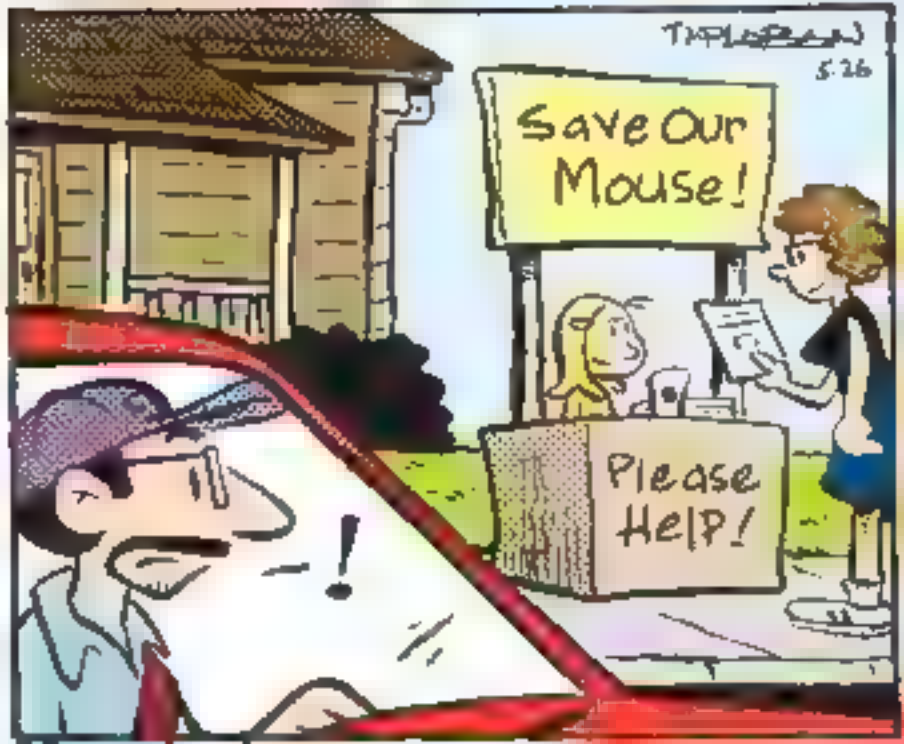
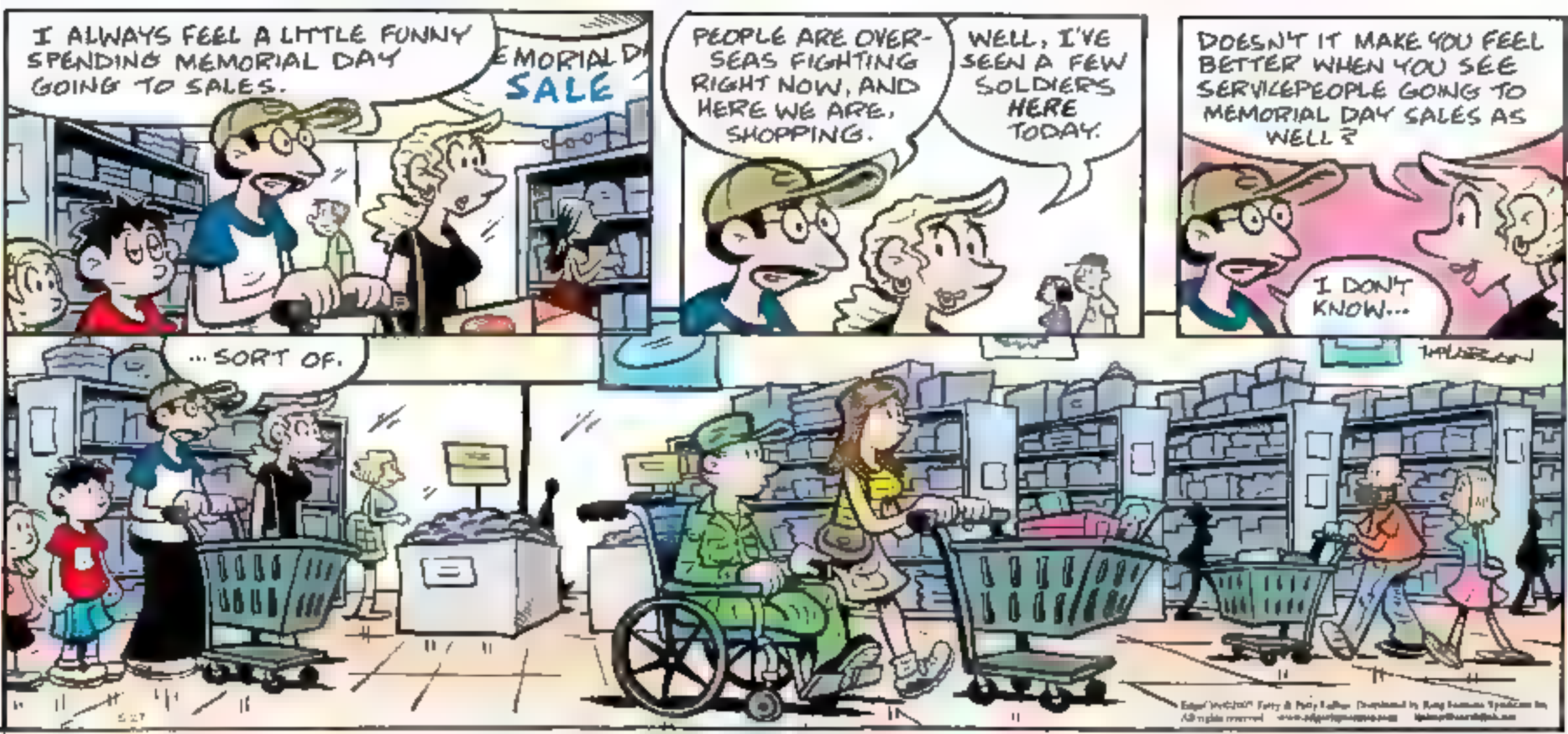
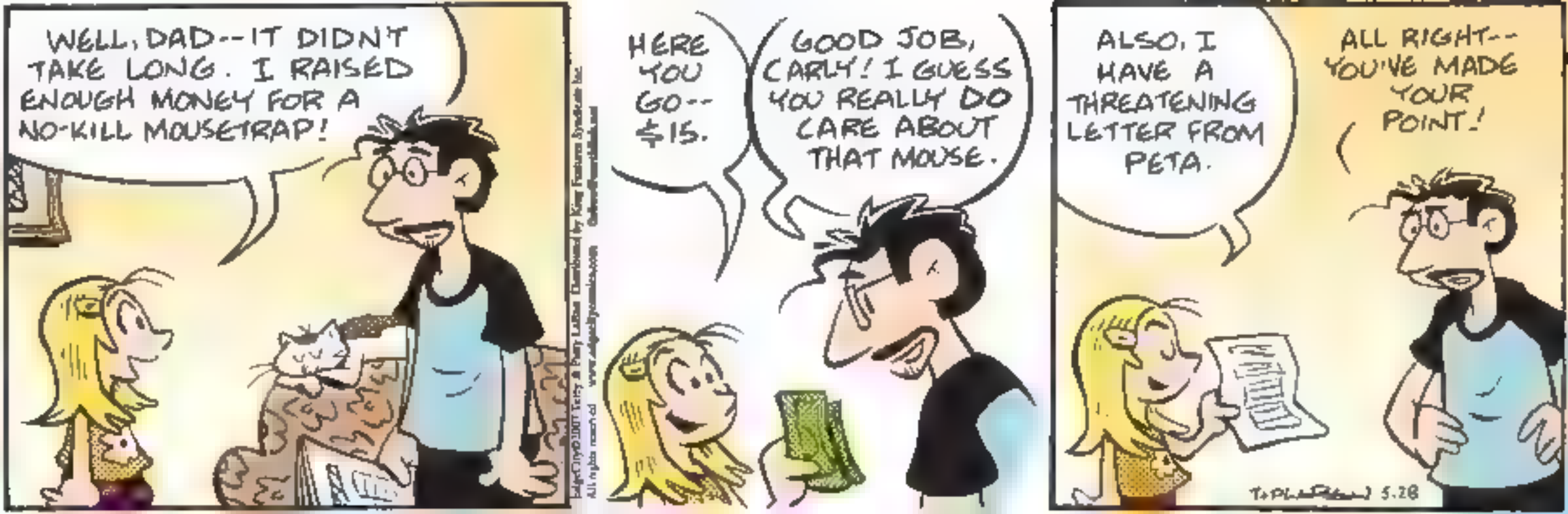
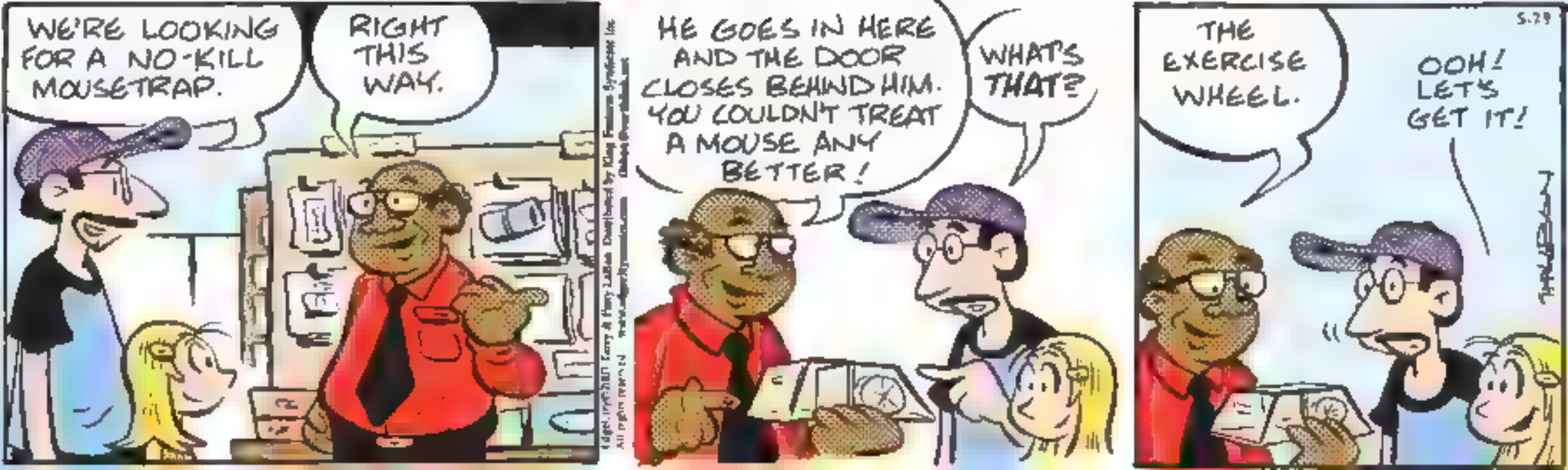



I ALWAYS FEEL A LITTLE FUNNY SPENDING MEMORIAL DAY GOING TO SALES.
MORIAL D
SALE
PEOPLE ARE OVER-SEAS FIGHTING RIGHT NOW, AND HERE WE ARE, SHOPPING.
WELL, I'VE SEEN A FEW SOLDIERS HERE TODAY.
DOESN'T IT MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER WHEN YOU SEE SERVICEPEOPLE GOING TO MEMORIAL DAY SALES AS WELL?
I DON'T KNOW...
... SORT OF.


WELL, DAD--IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG. I RAISED ENOUGH MONEY FOR A NO-KILL MOUSETRAP!
HERE YOU GO--$15.
GOOD JOB, CARLY! I GUESS YOU REALLY DO CARE ABOUT THAT MOUSE.
ALSO, I HAVE A THREATENING LETTER FROM PETA.
ALL RIGHT--YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT!


WE'RE LOOKING FOR A NO-KILL MOUSETRAP.
RIGHT THIS WAY.
HE GOES IN HERE AND THE DOOR CLOSES BEHIND HIM. YOU COULDN'T TREAT A MOUSE ANY BETTER!
WHAT'S THAT?
THE EXERCISE WHEEL.
OOH! LET'S GET IT!

OK, CARLY-- WE'LL JUST PUT IN SOME PEANUT BUTTER FOR BAIT AND YOUR NO-KILL MOUSETRAP WILL BE READY TO GO!

I HOPE THAT'S OK.

WHY? MICE LOVE PEANUT BUTTER.

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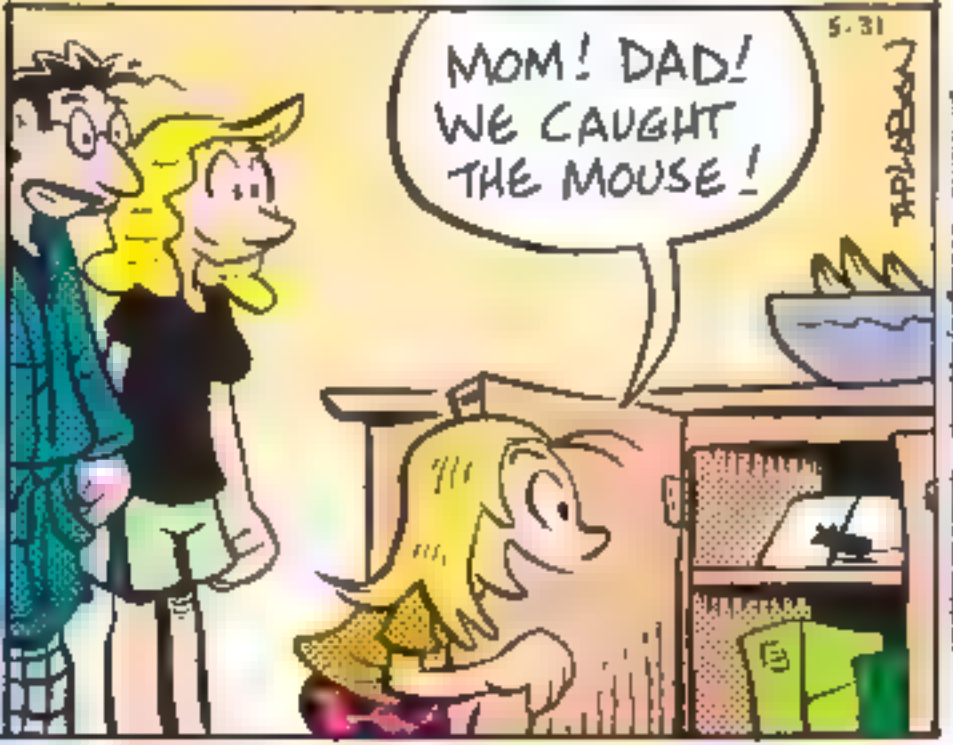
MAYBE WE SHOULD GIVE HIM SOME BREAD TO GO WITH IT.

IF YOU GIVE HIM BREAD, HE MIGHT WANT MILK. AND IF YOU GIVE HIM MILK...

5-30



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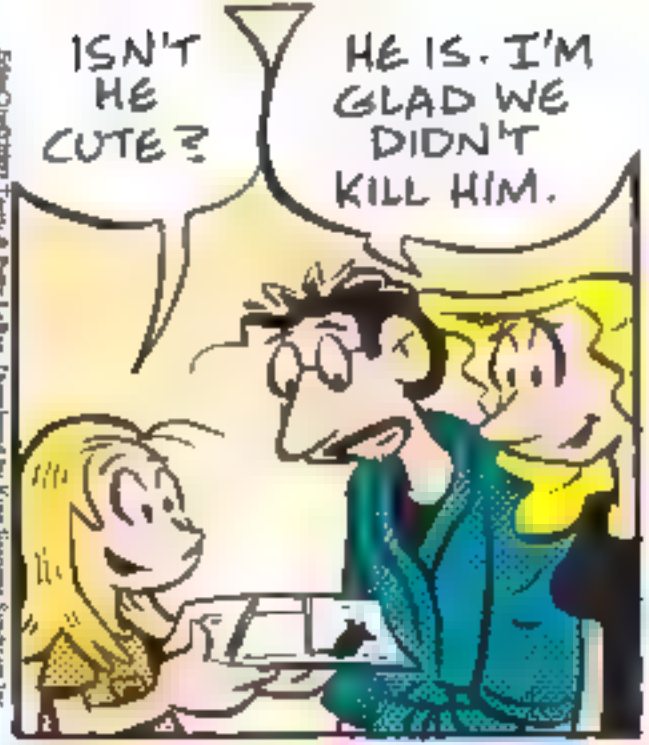
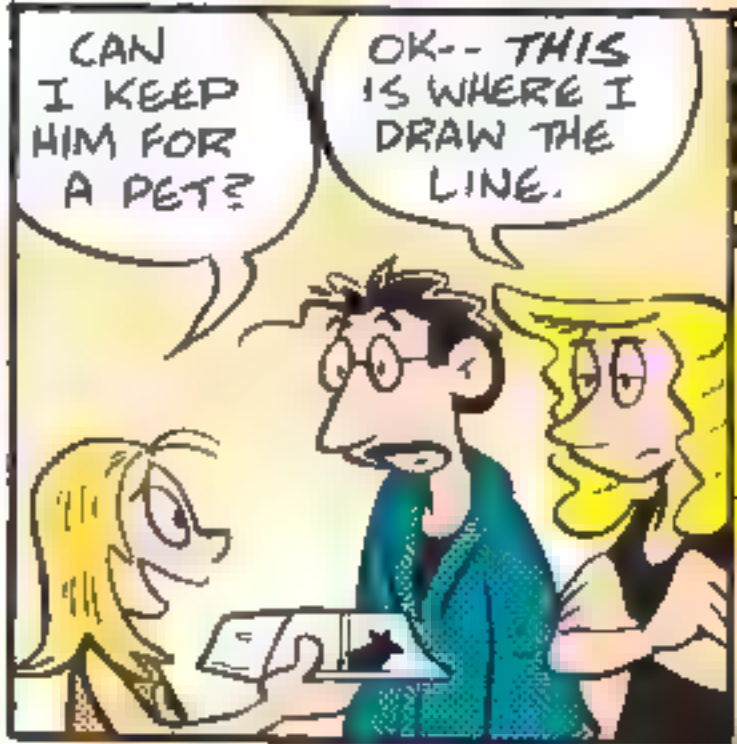
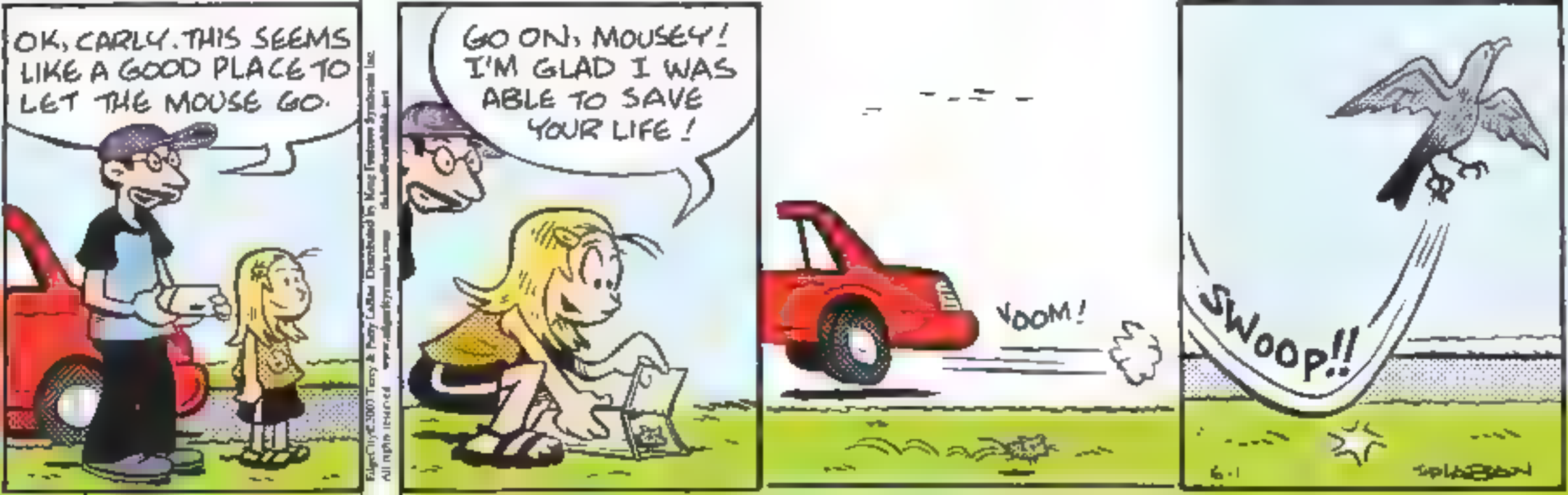
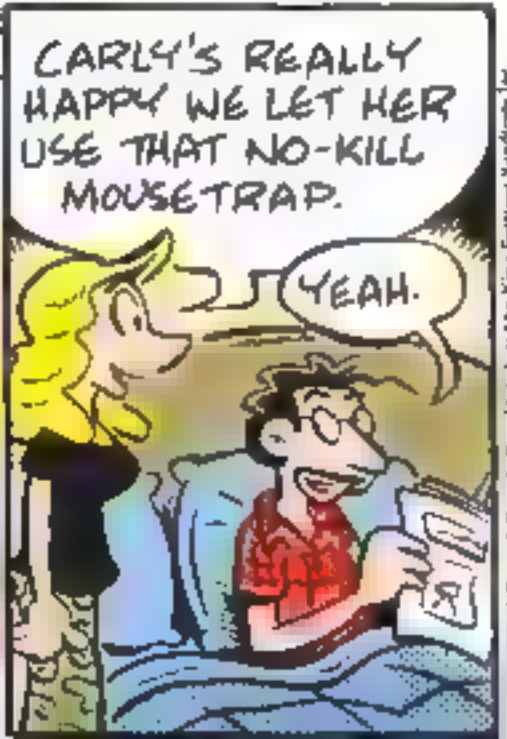





OK, CARLY. THIS SEEMS LIKE A GOOD PLACE TO LET THE MOUSE GO.
GO ON, MOUSEY! I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO SAVE YOUR LIFE!
VOOM!
SWOOP!!



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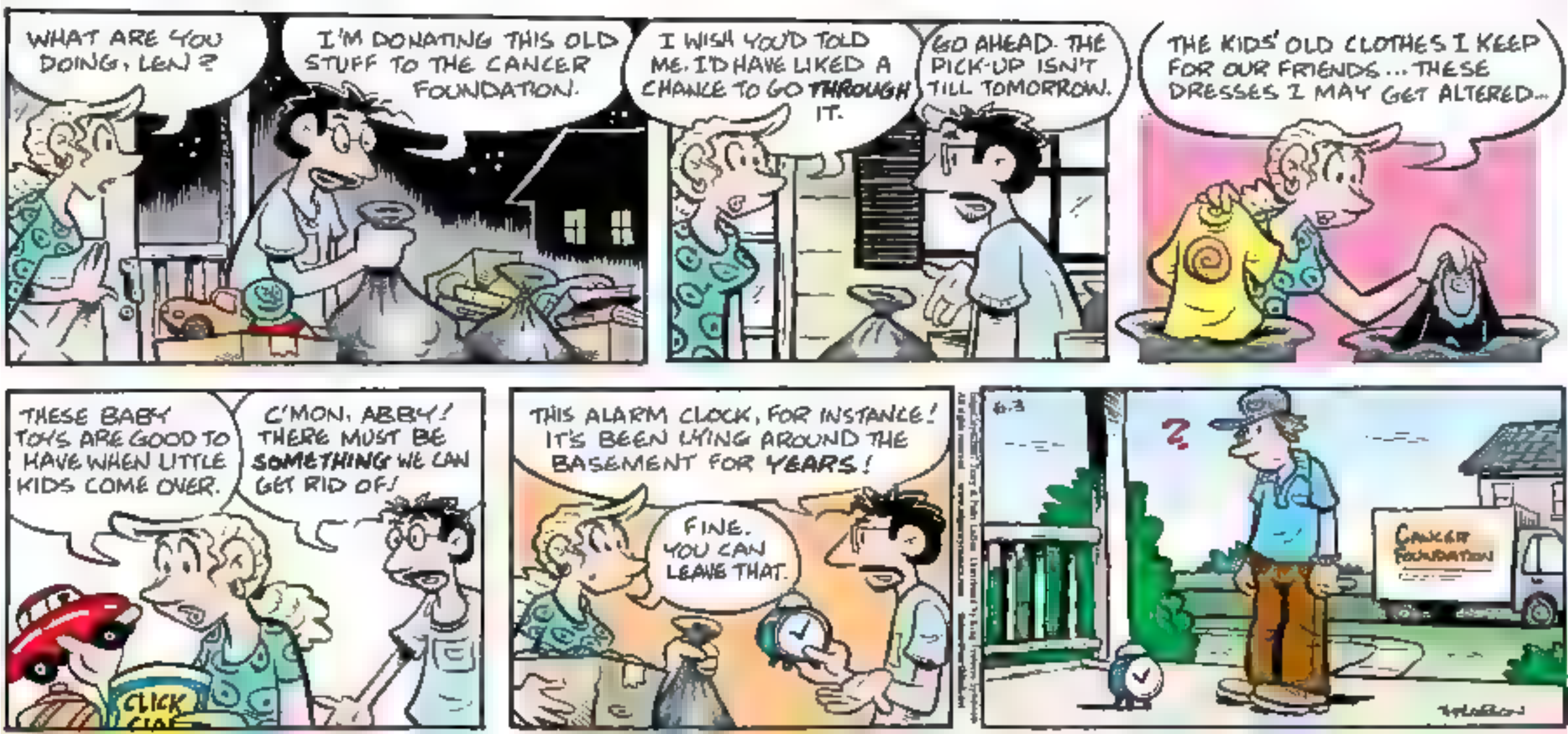
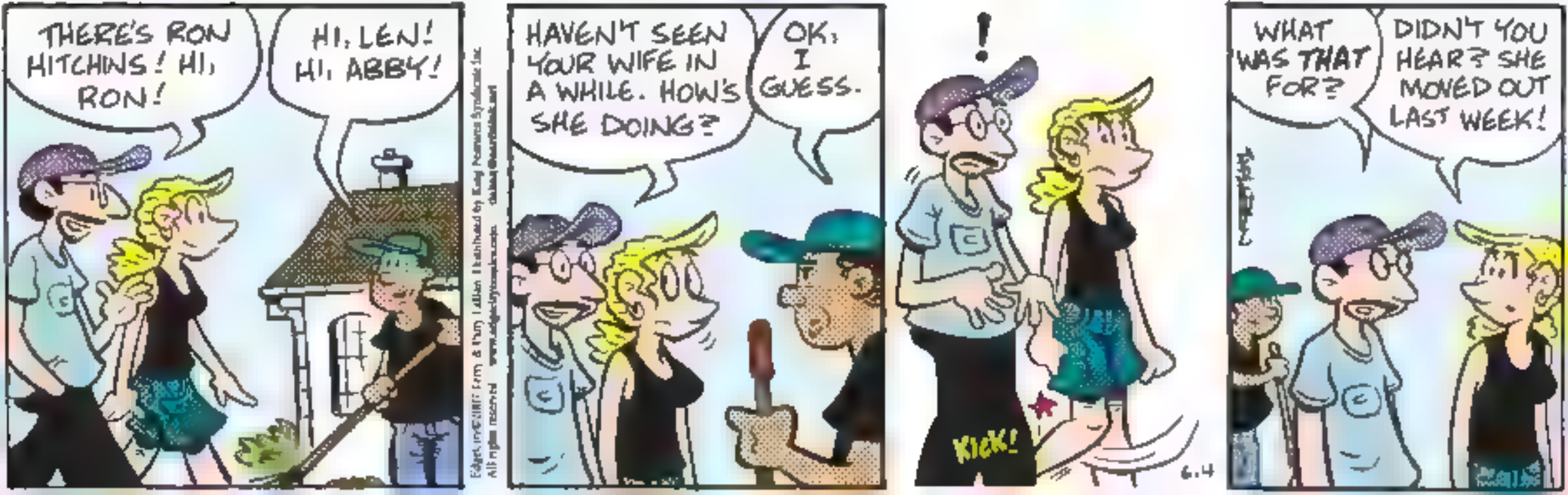
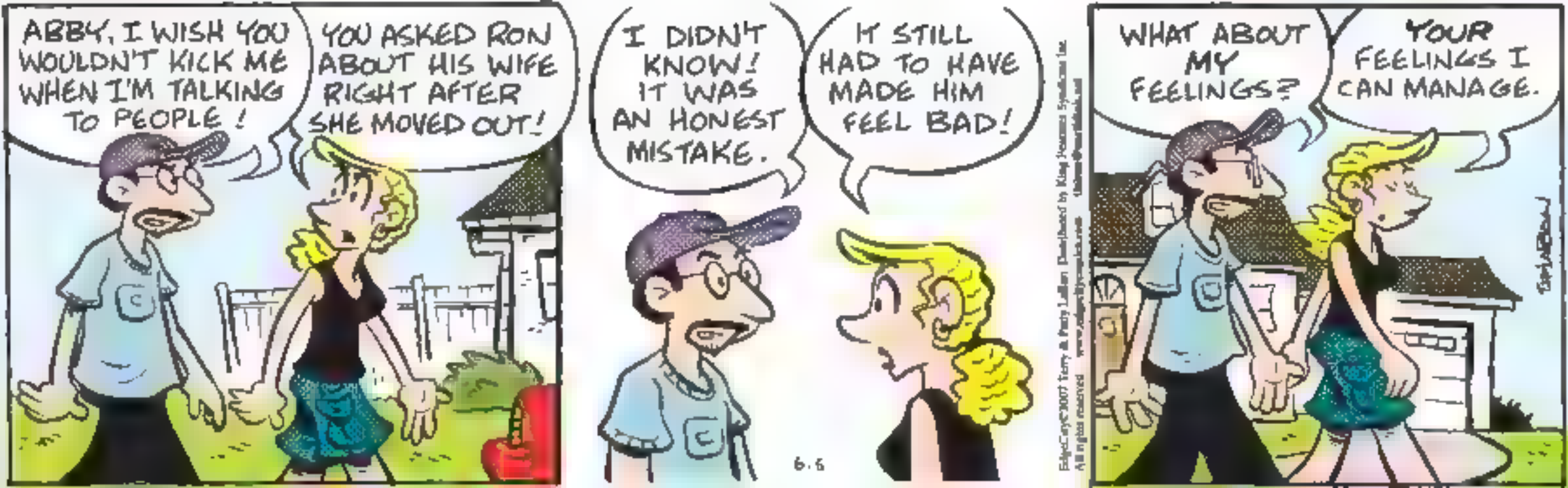
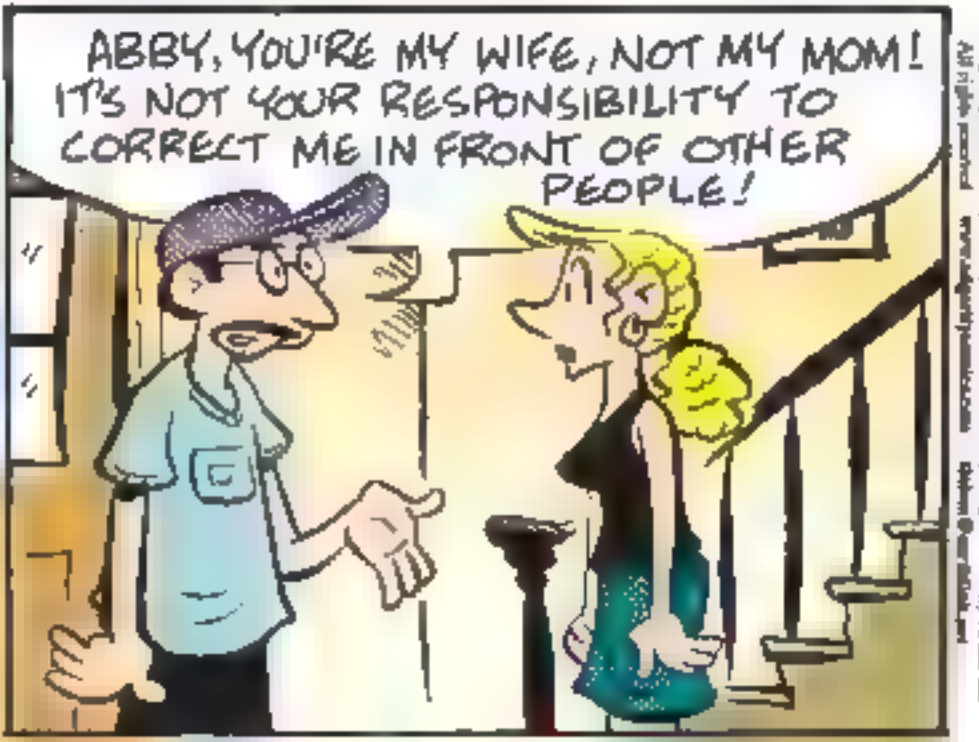

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, LEN?
I'M DONATING THIS OLD STUFF TO THE CANCER FOUNDATION.
I WISH YOU'D TOLD ME. I'D HAVE LIKED A CHANCE TO GO THROUGH IT.
GO AHEAD. THE PICK-UP ISN'T TILL TOMORROW.
THE KIDS' OLD CLOTHES I KEEP FOR OUR FRIENDS... THESE DRESSES I MAY GET ALTERED...
THESE BABY TOYS ARE GOOD TO HAVE WHEN LITTLE KIDS COME OVER.
C'MON, ABBY! THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WE CAN GET RID OF!
CLICK
THIS ALARM CLOCK, FOR INSTANCE! IT'S BEEN LYING AROUND THE BASEMENT FOR YEARS!
FINE. YOU CAN LEAVE THAT.
?
CANCER FOUNDATION


THERE'S RON HITCHINS! HI, RON!
HI, LEN! HI, ABBY!
HAVEN'T SEEN YOUR WIFE IN A WHILE. HOW'S SHE DOING?
OK, I GUESS.
!
KICK!
6.4
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
DIDN'T YOU HEAR? SHE MOVED OUT LAST WEEK!


ABBY, I WISH YOU WOULDN'T KICK ME WHEN I'M TALKING TO PEOPLE!
YOU ASKED RON ABOUT HIS WIFE RIGHT AFTER SHE MOVED OUT!
I DIDN'T KNOW! IT WAS AN HONEST MISTAKE.
IT STILL HAD TO HAVE MADE HIM FEEL BAD!
6-6
WHAT ABOUT MY FEELINGS?
YOUR FEELINGS I CAN MANAGE.



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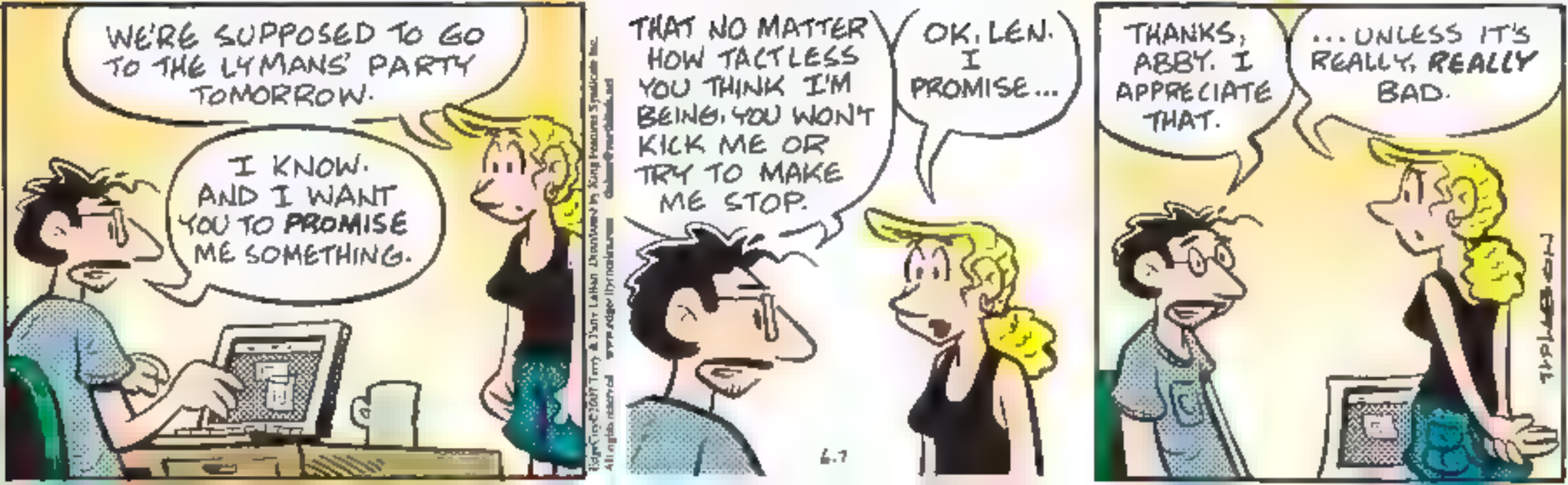
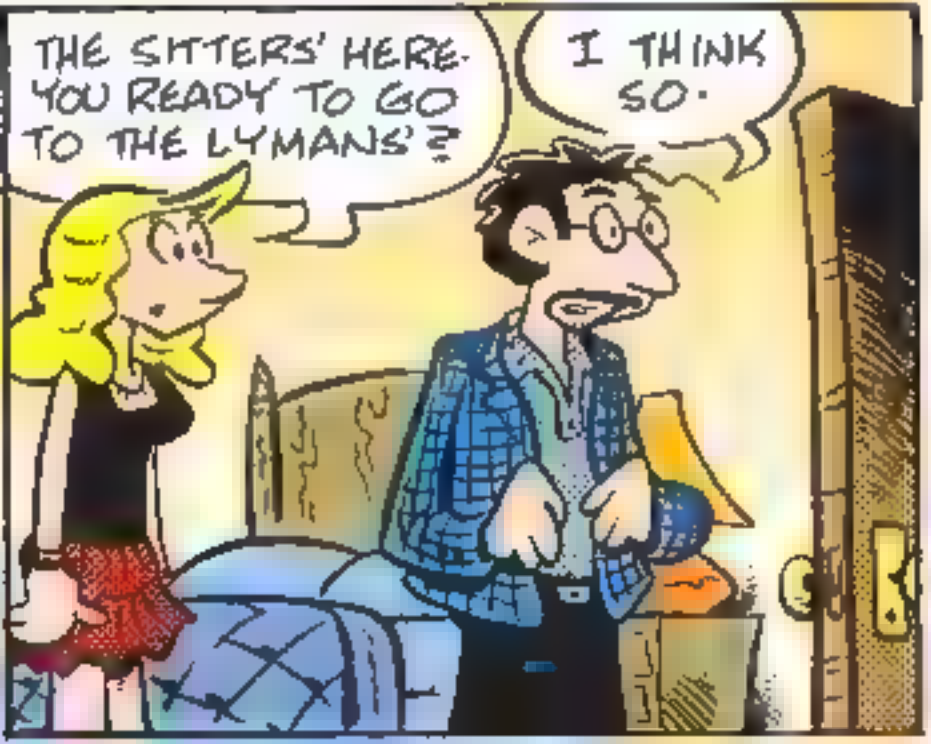
6-6


WE'RE SUPPOSED TO GO TO THE LYMANS' PARTY TOMORROW.
I KNOW. AND I WANT YOU TO PROMISE ME SOMETHING.
THAT NO MATTER HOW TACTLESS YOU THINK I'M BEING, YOU WON'T KICK ME OR TRY TO MAKE ME STOP.
OK, LEN. I PROMISE...
THANKS, ABBY. I APPRECIATE THAT.
...UNLESS IT'S REALLY, REALLY BAD.



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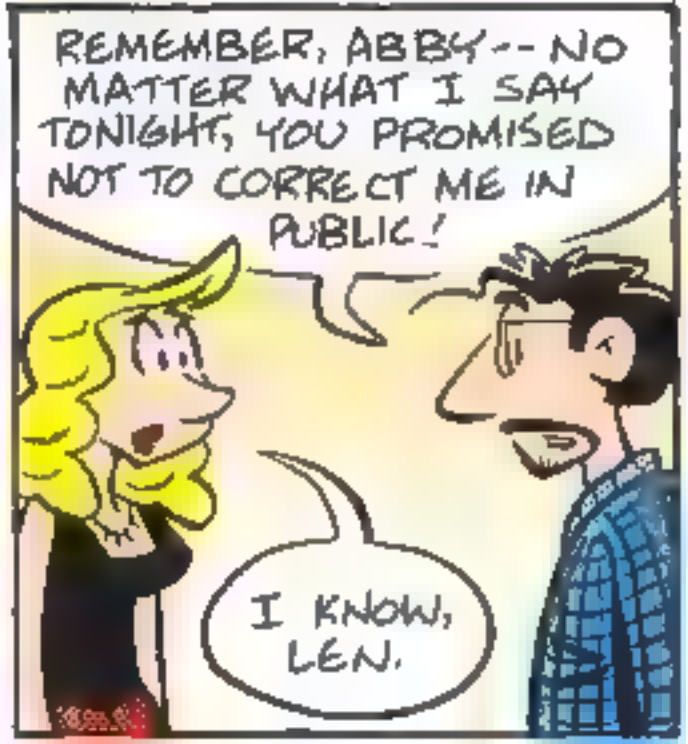
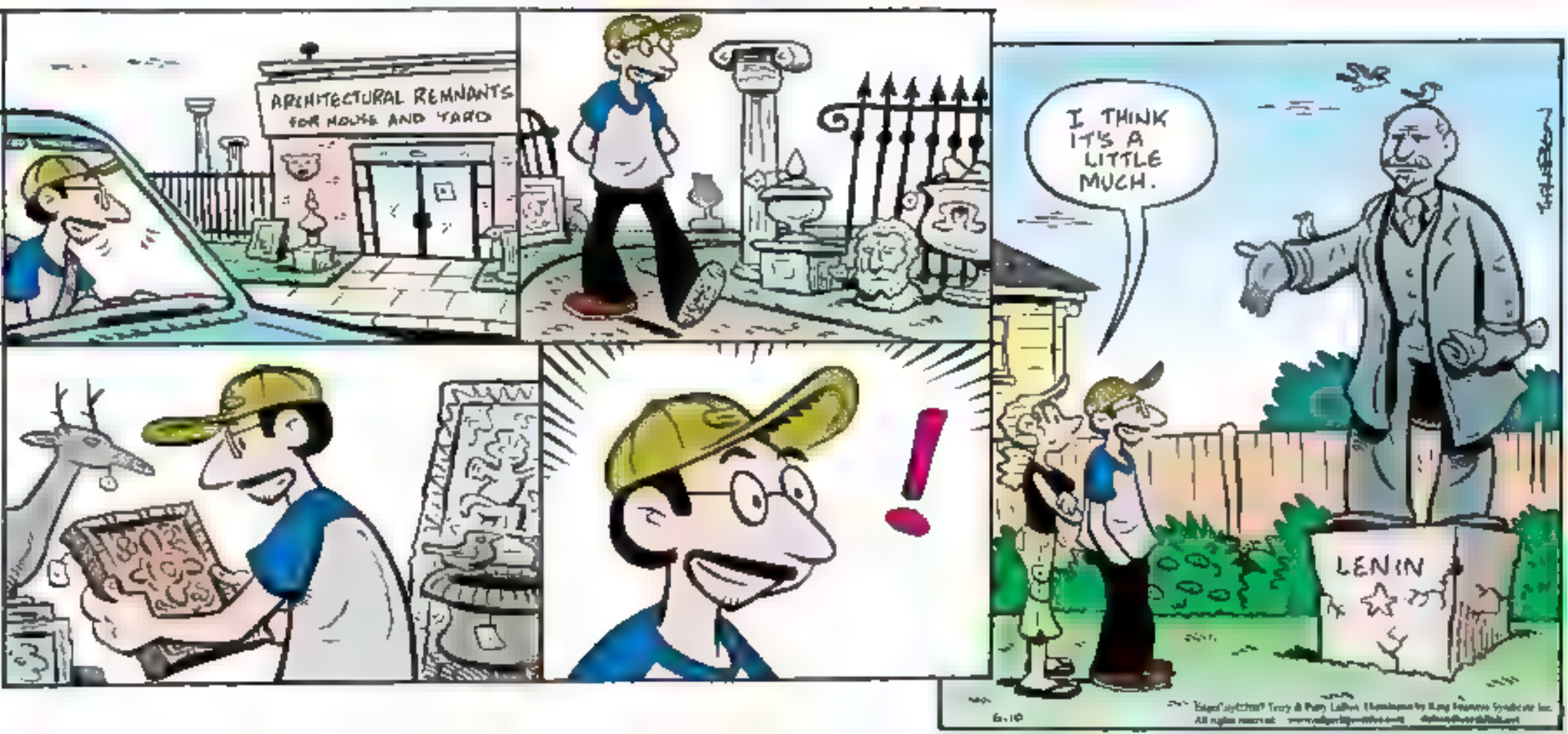
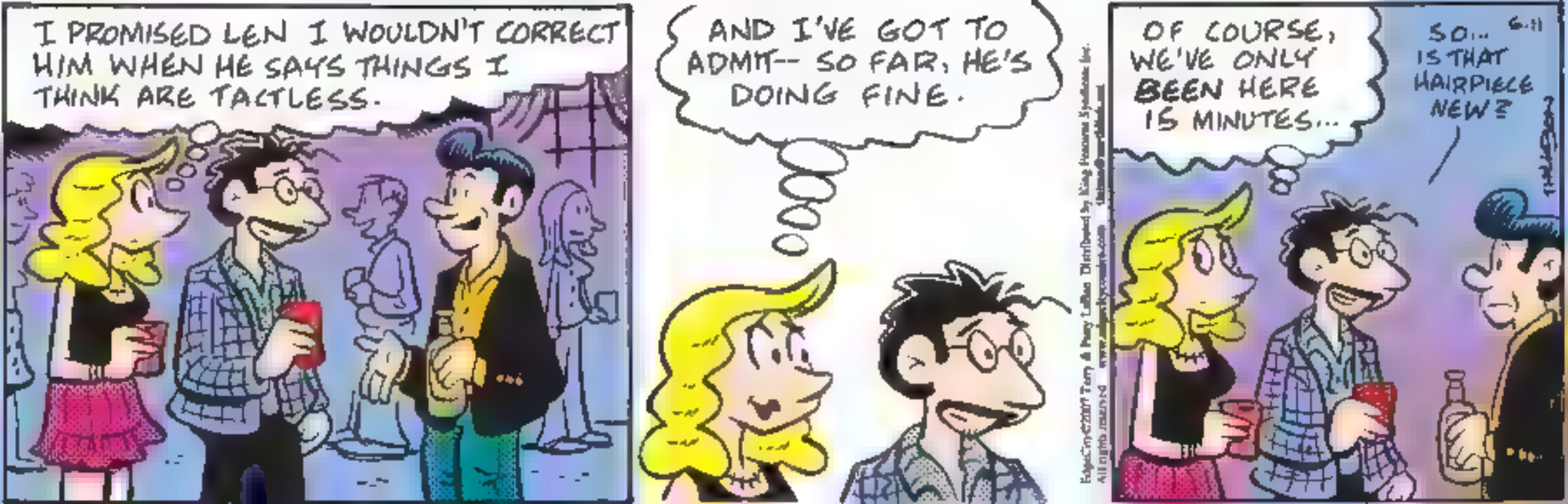
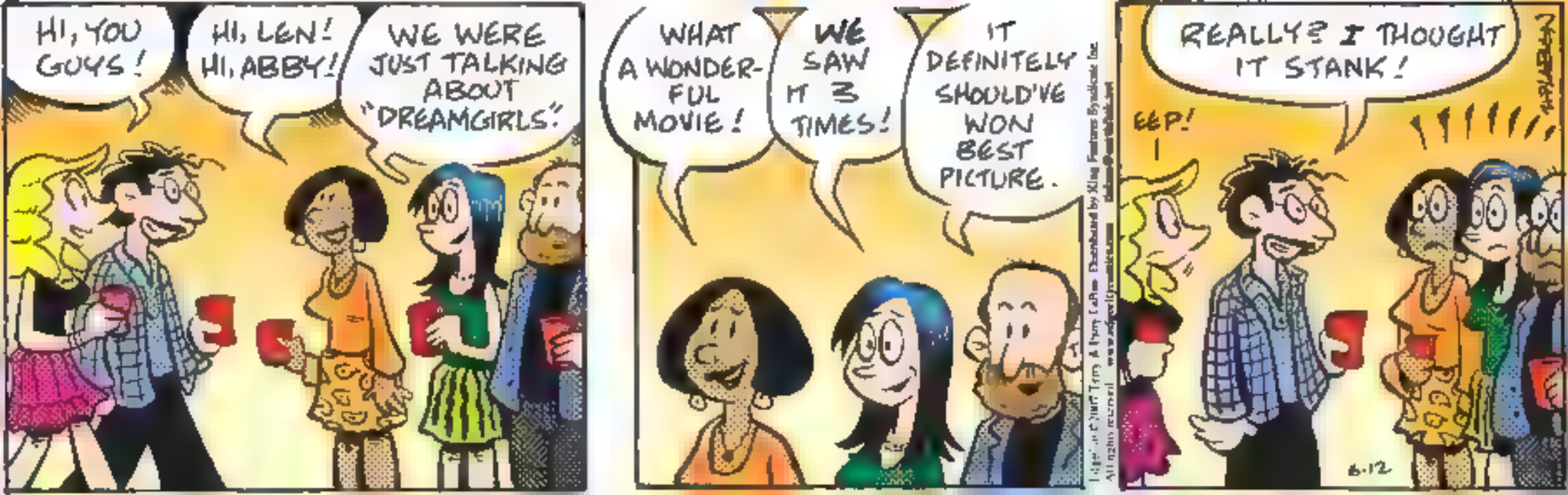
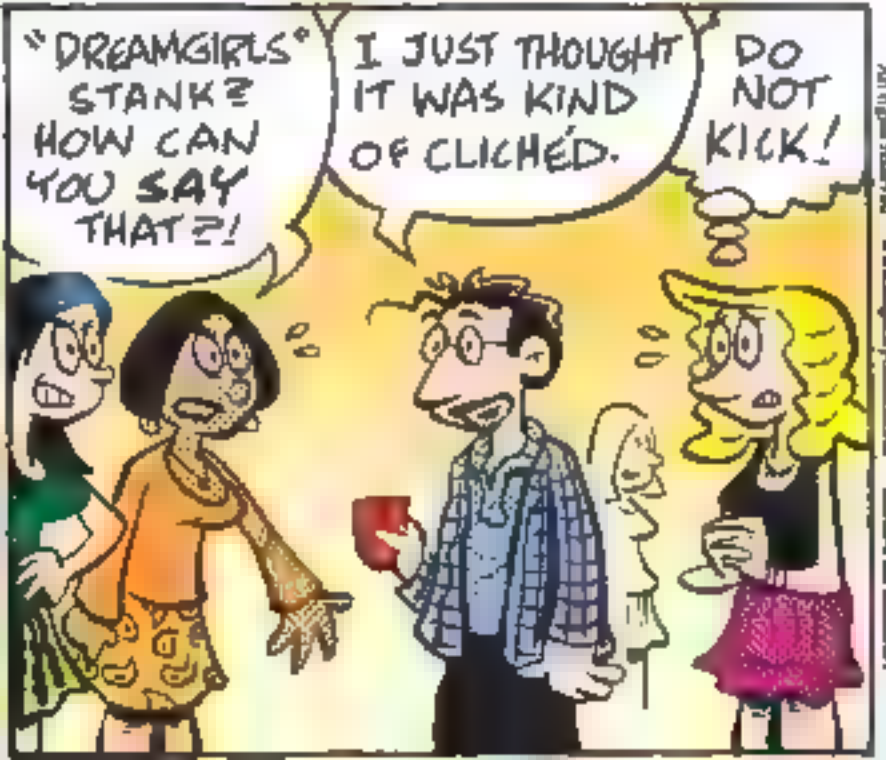


REMEMBER--WHILE WE'RE AT THE PARTY, DON'T KICK ME WHEN I'M TALKING TO PEOPLE.
I WON'T. JUST BE SURE TO BE TACTFUL!
ABBY, I KNOW I CAN BE BLUNT. BUT WHEN HAVE I SAID SOMETHING THAT ACTUALLY OFFENDED ANYBODY?
THAT BARBECUE AT THE LITTLES'... THE TIME AT THE LAKE WITH THE TEITELBAUMS...
OK... RECENTLY?
LEN! ABBY! COME IN!


ARCHITECTURAL REMNANTS FOR HOUSE AND YARD
I THINK IT'S A LITTLE MUCH.
LENIN
!


I PROMISED LEN I WOULDN'T CORRECT HIM WHEN HE SAYS THINGS I THINK ARE TACTLESS.
AND I'VE GOT TO ADMIT-- SO FAR, HE'S DOING FINE.
OF COURSE, WE'VE ONLY BEEN HERE 15 MINUTES...
SO... IS THAT HAIRPIECE NEW?


HI, YOU GUYS!
HI, LEN! HI, ABBY!
WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT "DREAMGIRLS."
WHAT A WONDER-FUL MOVIE!
WE SAW IT 3 TIMES!
IT DEFINITELY SHOULD'VE WON BEST PICTURE.
REALLY? I THOUGHT IT STANK!
EEP!
6-12

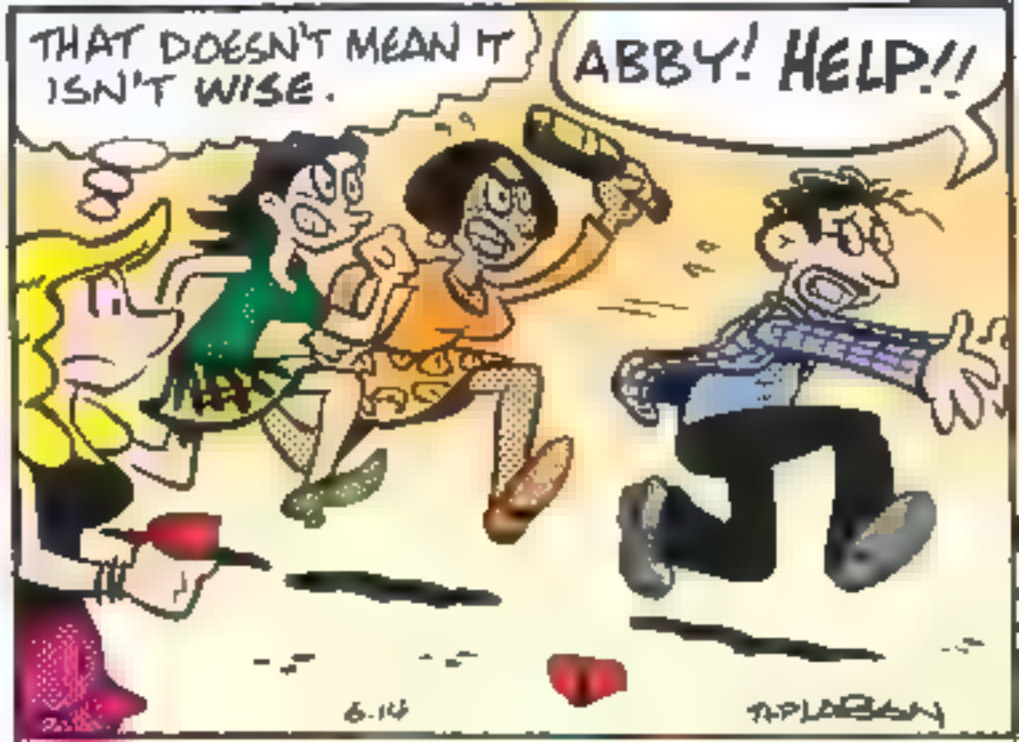

"DREAMGIRLS" STANK? HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?!
I JUST THOUGHT IT WAS KIND OF CLICHÉD.
DO NOT KICK!

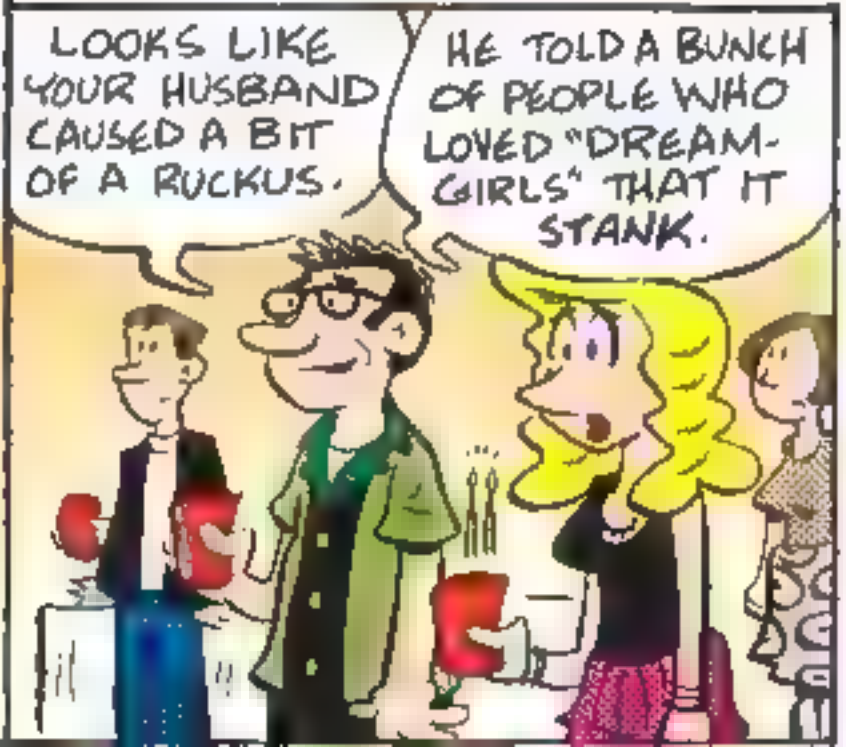
CLICHÉD?!
LOOK, I UNDERSTAND THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE LIKED IT.

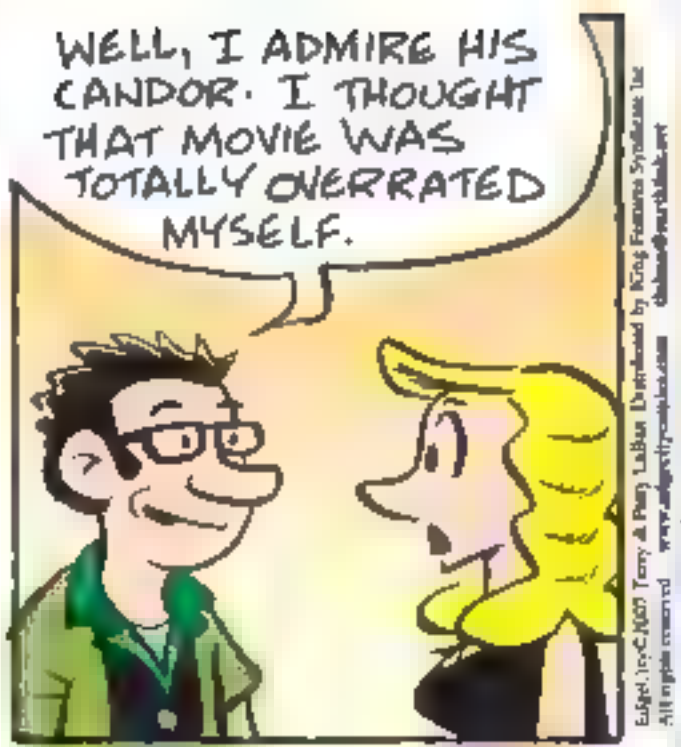
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY--IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO UNDERESTIMATE THE INTELLIGENCE OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC!
DO NOT KICK!
DO NOT KICK!!

I PROMISED NOT TO KICK LEN WHEN HE SAYS SOMETHING I THINK IS TACTLESS.

WE AGREED THAT HE'S AN ADULT AND THAT IT ISN'T RIGHT FOR ME TO CORRECT HIM IN PUBLIC.


THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT ISN'T WISE.
ABBY! HELP!!





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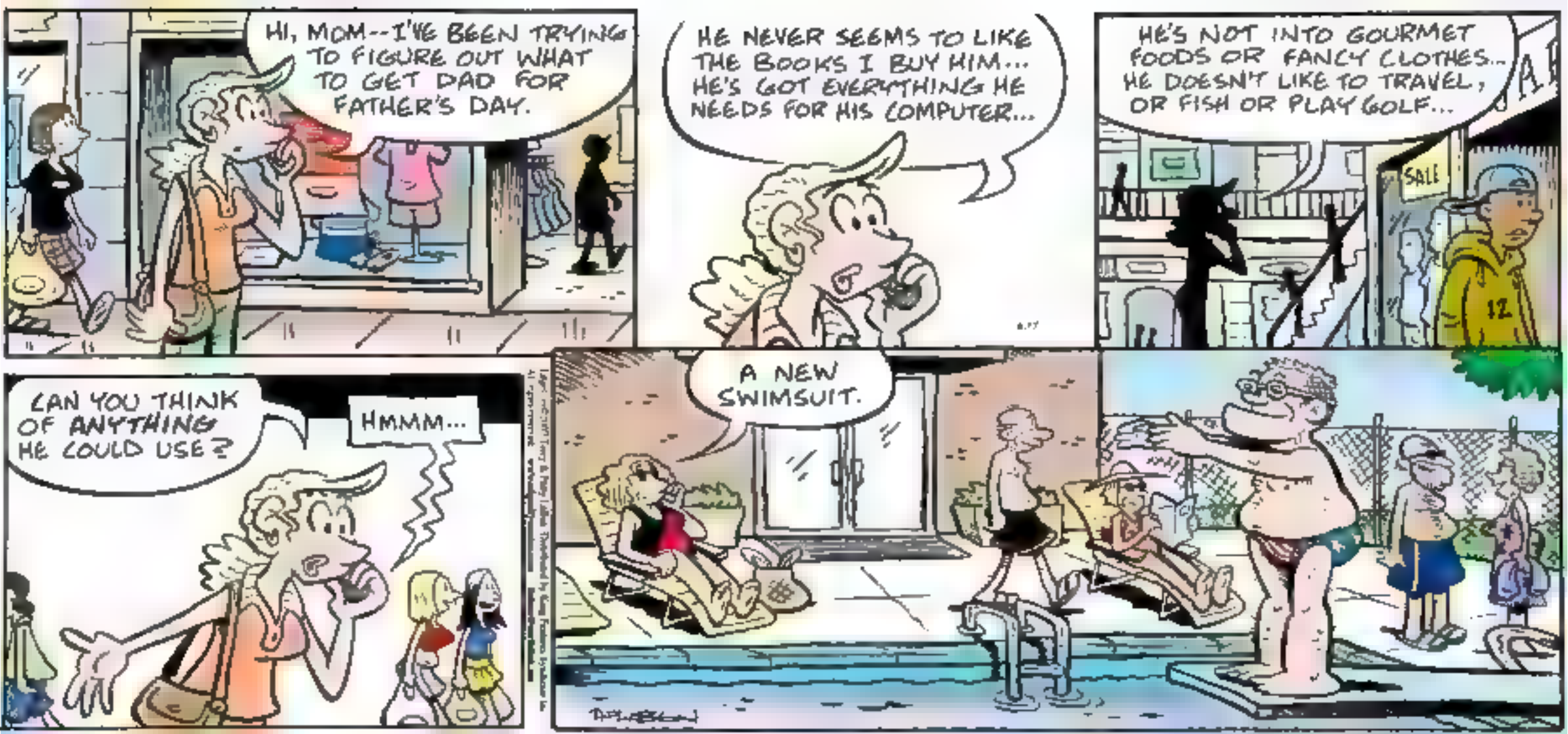
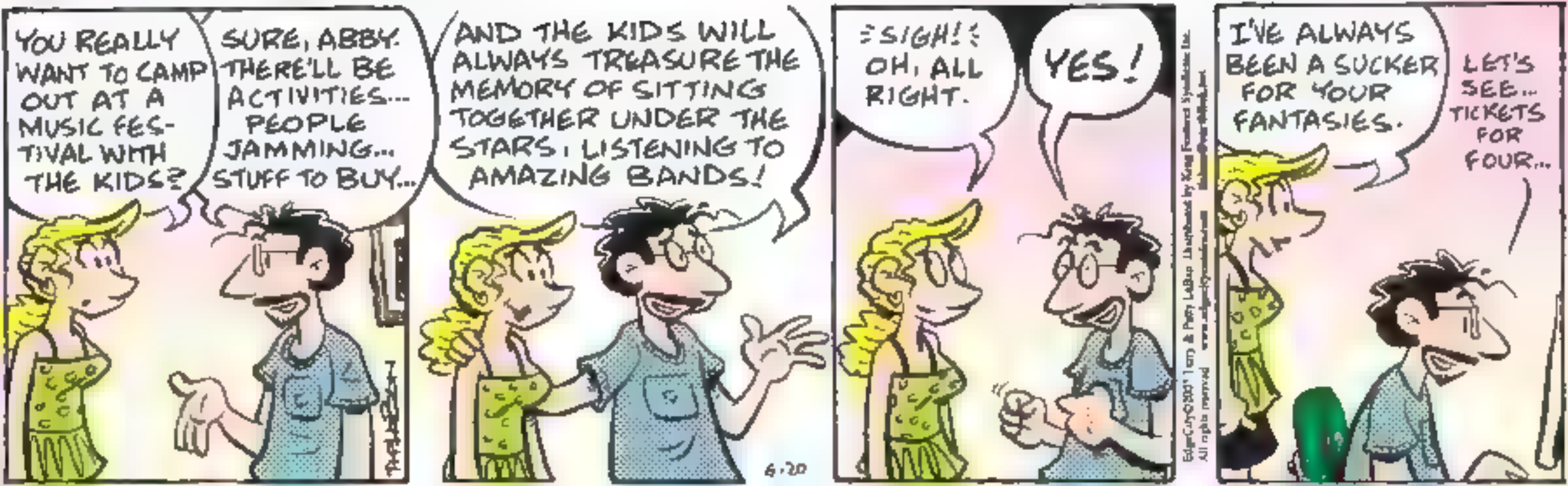
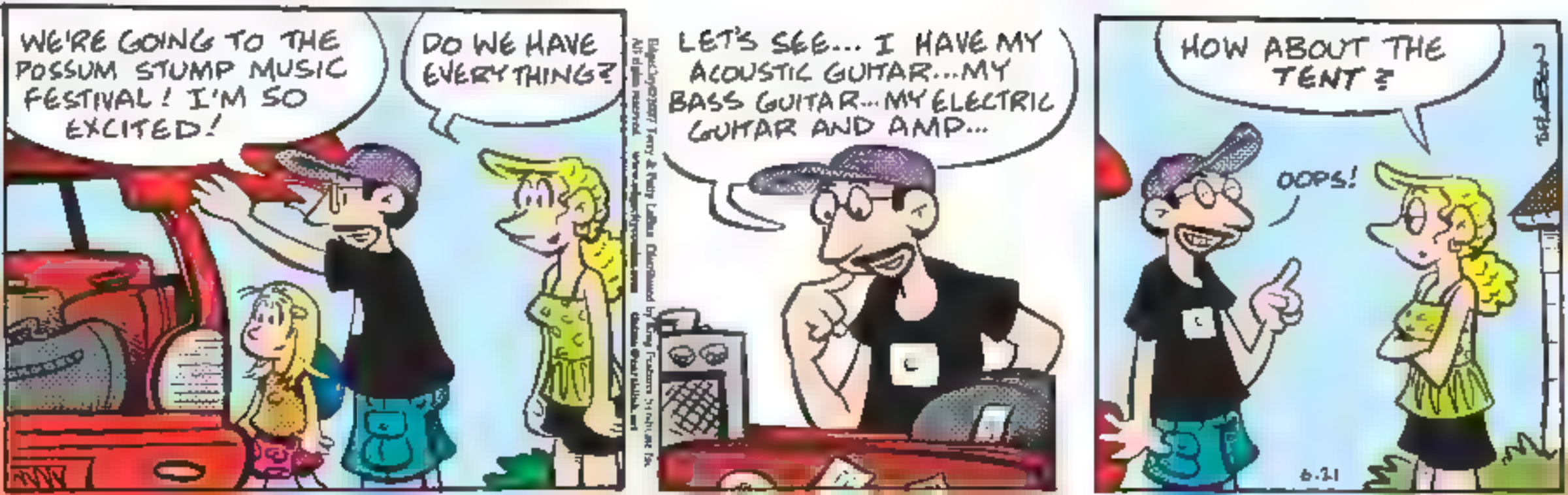
THAT WAS A NICE PARTY.
EXCEPT WHEN I PUT MY FOOT IN MY MOUTH ABOUT "DREAMGIRLS"!
WELL--YOU MADE ME PROMISE NOT TO KICK YOU WHEN YOU SAID SOMETHING TACTLESS.
AND I APPRECIATE YOU KEEPING THAT PROMISE.
BUT MAYBE I WOULDN'T MIND IF YOU BROKE IT EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.
JUST SAY THE WORD, HONEY, AND I'LL KICK YOU ALL YOU WANT!

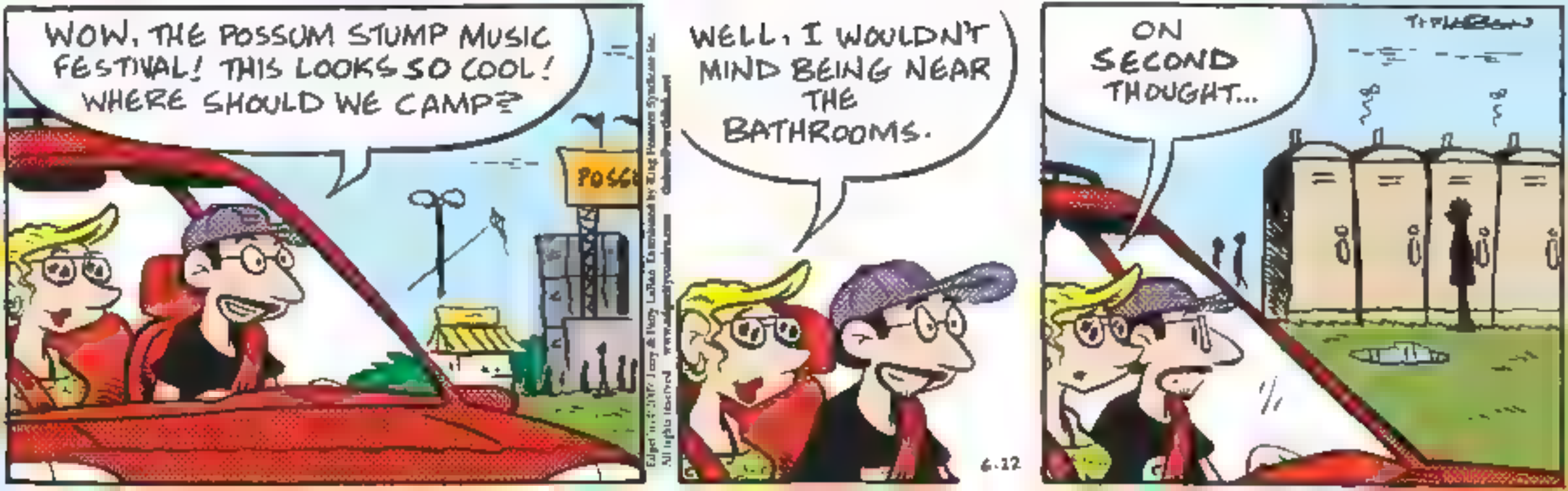

HI, MOM--I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO GET DAD FOR FATHER'S DAY.
HE NEVER SEEMS TO LIKE THE BOOKS I BUY HIM... HE'S GOT EVERYTHING HE NEEDS FOR HIS COMPUTER...
HE'S NOT INTO GOURMET FOODS OR FANCY CLOTHES... HE DOESN'T LIKE TO TRAVEL, OR FISH OR PLAY GOLF...
SALE
12
CAN YOU THINK OF ANYTHING HE COULD USE?
HMMM...
A NEW SWIMSUIT.

WOW! THERE ARE SOME GREAT BANDS PLAYING AT THE POSSUM STUMP MUSIC FESTIVAL THIS YEAR! WE SHOULD GO!
WE COULD CAMP THERE FOR THE WEEKEND! IT'D BE FUN!
US AND THE KIDS IN A TENT FOR TWO NIGHTS AT A MUSIC FESTIVAL?
WHY NOT?
THAT'S A RHETORICAL QUESTION, RIGHT?
6-18

THERE ARE LOTS OF TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE FOR THE POSSUM STUMP MUSIC FESTIVAL! I WANNA GO!
I DON'T KNOW, LEN.
CAMPING OUT AT A MUSIC FESTIVAL FOR TWO DAYS REALLY ISN'T MY CUP OF TEA!
WE DID IT BEFORE WE HAD KIDS! DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
I REMEMBER THE DRUNK GUY FALLING ON OUR TENT AT 3 A.M.!
THAT WAS ALL PART OF THE ADVENTURE.


YOU REALLY WANT TO CAMP OUT AT A MUSIC FESTIVAL WITH THE KIDS?
SURE, ABBY. THERE'LL BE ACTIVITIES... PEOPLE JAMMING... STUFF TO BUY...
AND THE KIDS WILL ALWAYS TREASURE THE MEMORY OF SITTING TOGETHER UNDER THE STARS, LISTENING TO AMAZING BANDS!
6-20
SIGH! OH, ALL RIGHT.
YES!
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A SUCKER FOR YOUR FANTASIES.
LET'S SEE... TICKETS FOR FOUR...

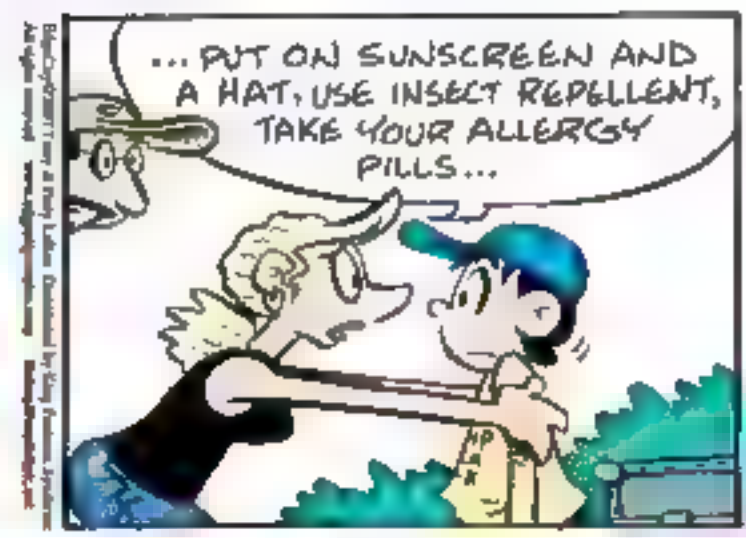

WE'RE GOING TO THE POSSUM STUMP MUSIC FESTIVAL! I'M SO EXCITED!
DO WE HAVE EVERYTHING?
LET'S SEE... I HAVE MY ACOUSTIC GUITAR...MY BASS GUITAR...MY ELECTRIC GUITAR AND AMP...
HOW ABOUT THE TENT?
OOPS!
6-21

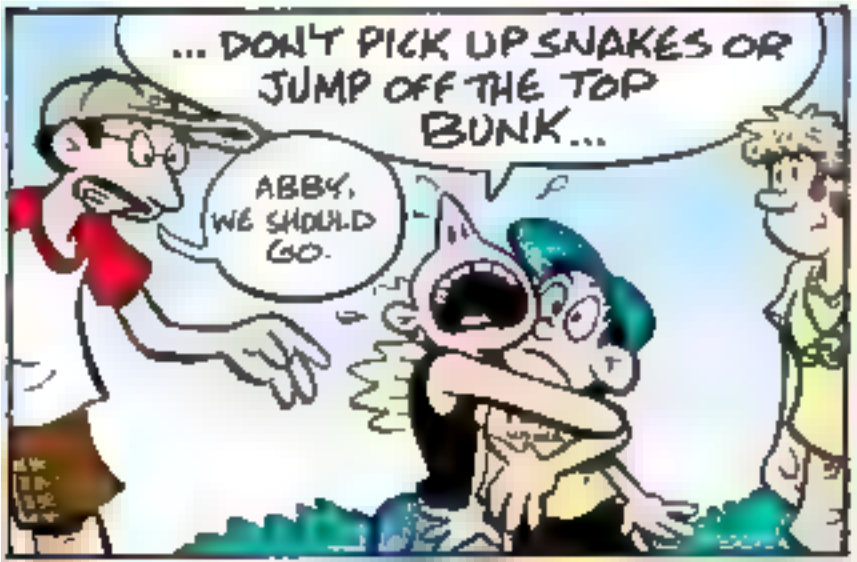

WOW, THE POSSUM STUMP MUSIC FESTIVAL! THIS LOOKS SO COOL! WHERE SHOULD WE CAMP?
POSSU
WELL, I WOULDN'T MIND BEING NEAR THE BATHROOMS.
6-12
ON SECOND THOUGHT...

OK, ABBY--THE TENT'S SET UP! LET'S GO EXPLORE THE MUSIC FESTIVAL!
I WANNA CHECK OUT THE JAM SESSION AREA...AND AT 1:00, THERE'S A GREAT BAND...
WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?
6.23
OH, RIGHT. THEY'RE HERE, TOO.
WE'RE BORED.

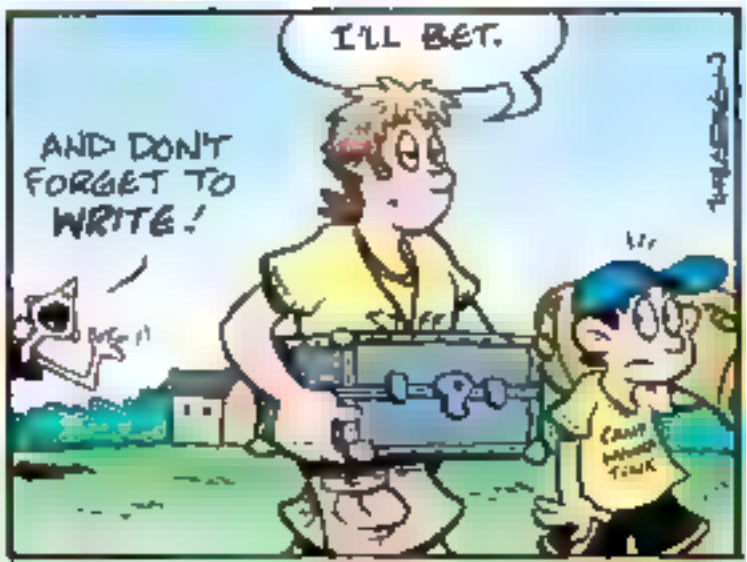
REMEMBER, COLIN--BRUSH YOUR TEETH AND SHOWER REGULARLY...
STAFF

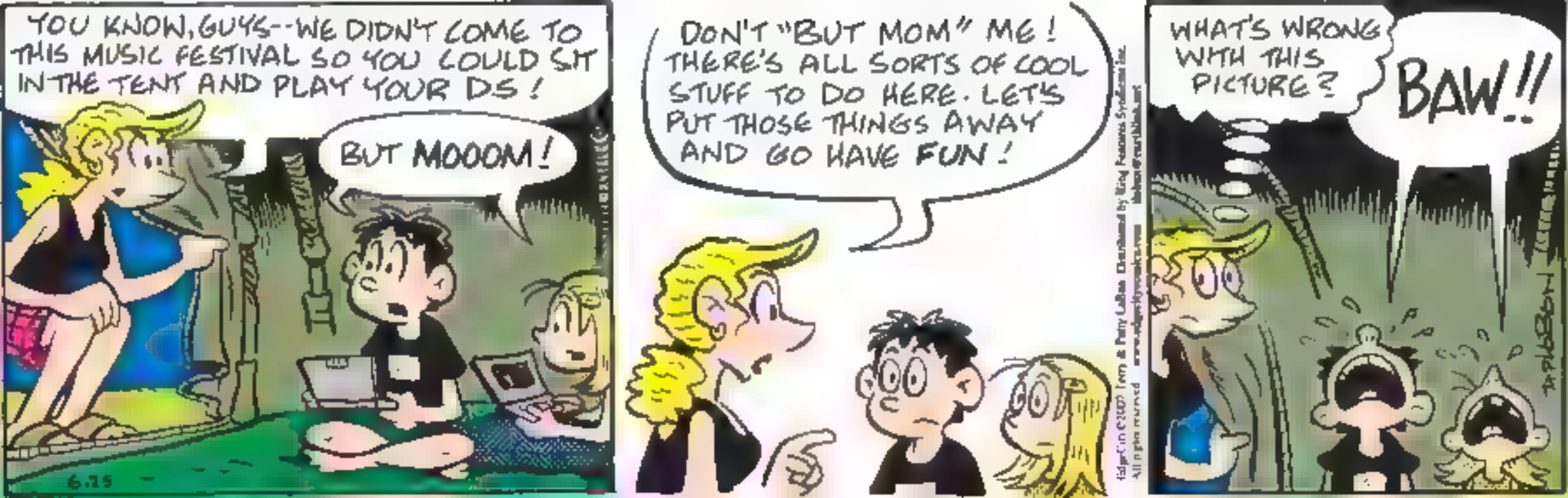
... CHANGE YOUR SOCKS AND UNDERWEAR EACH DAY, AND WASH YOUR HANDS BEFORE EATING...

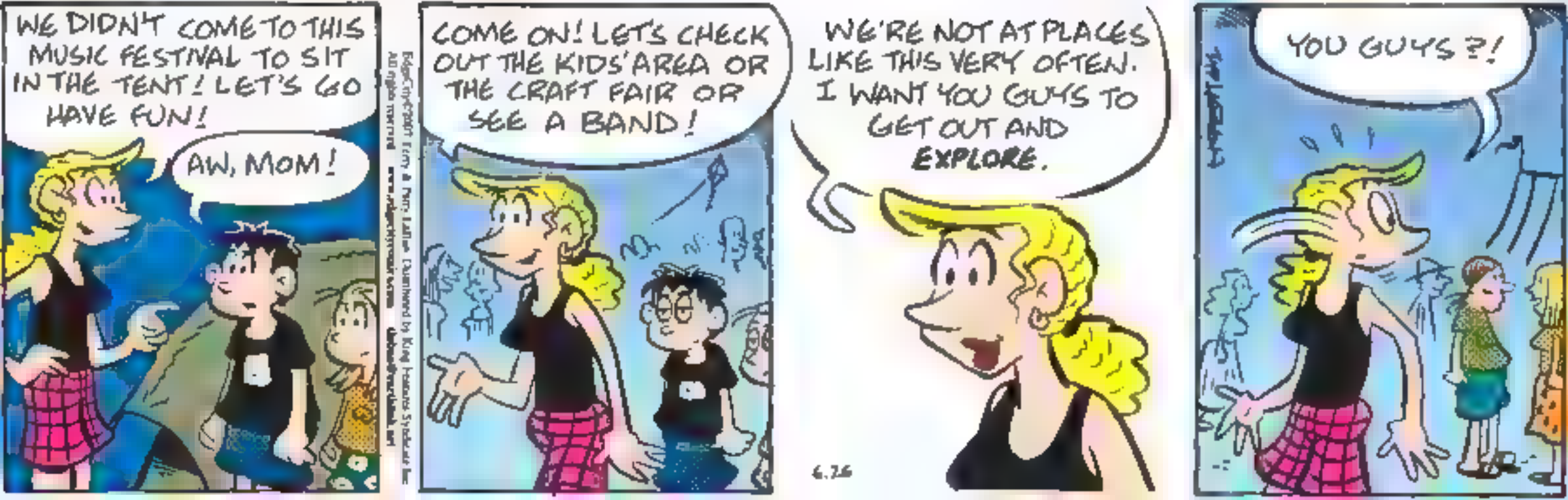

... PUT ON SUNSCREEN AND A HAT, USE INSECT REPELLENT, TAKE YOUR ALLERGY PILLS...

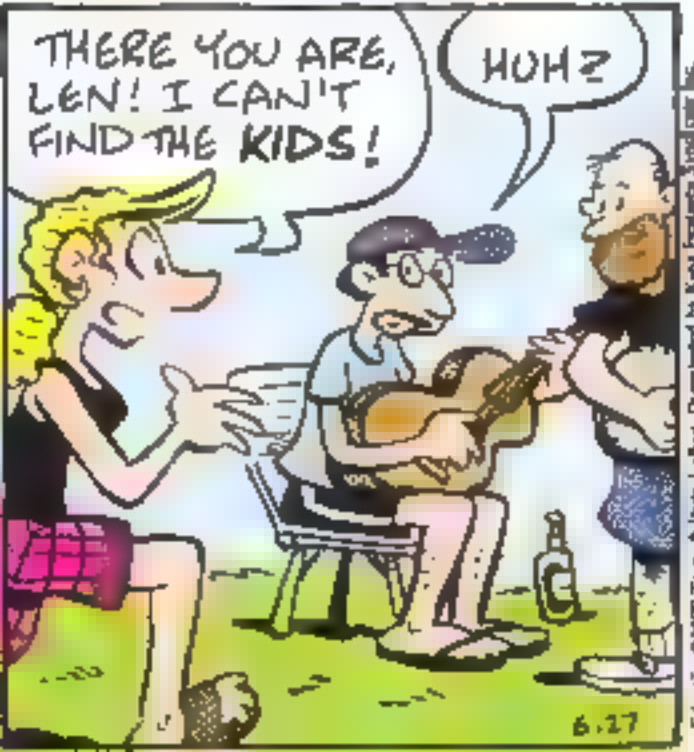

... DON'T PICK UP SNAKES OR JUMP OFF THE TOP BUNK...
ABBY, WE SHOULD GO.

SO, COLIN--HAPPY TO BE BACK AT CAMP?
OH, YEAH!
STAFF


I'LL BET.
AND DON'T FORGET TO WRITE!


YOU KNOW, GUYS--WE DIDN'T COME TO THIS MUSIC FESTIVAL SO YOU COULD SIT IN THE TENT AND PLAY YOUR DS!
BUT MOOOM!
6.25
DON'T "BUT MOM" ME! THERE'S ALL SORTS OF COOL STUFF TO DO HERE. LET'S PUT THOSE THINGS AWAY AND GO HAVE FUN!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?
BAW!!


WE DIDN'T COME TO THIS MUSIC FESTIVAL TO SIT IN THE TENT! LET'S GO HAVE FUN!
AW, MOM!
COME ON! LET'S CHECK OUT THE KIDS' AREA OR THE CRAFT FAIR OR SEE A BAND!
WE'RE NOT AT PLACES LIKE THIS VERY OFTEN. I WANT YOU GUYS TO GET OUT AND EXPLORE.
6.26
YOU GUYS?!



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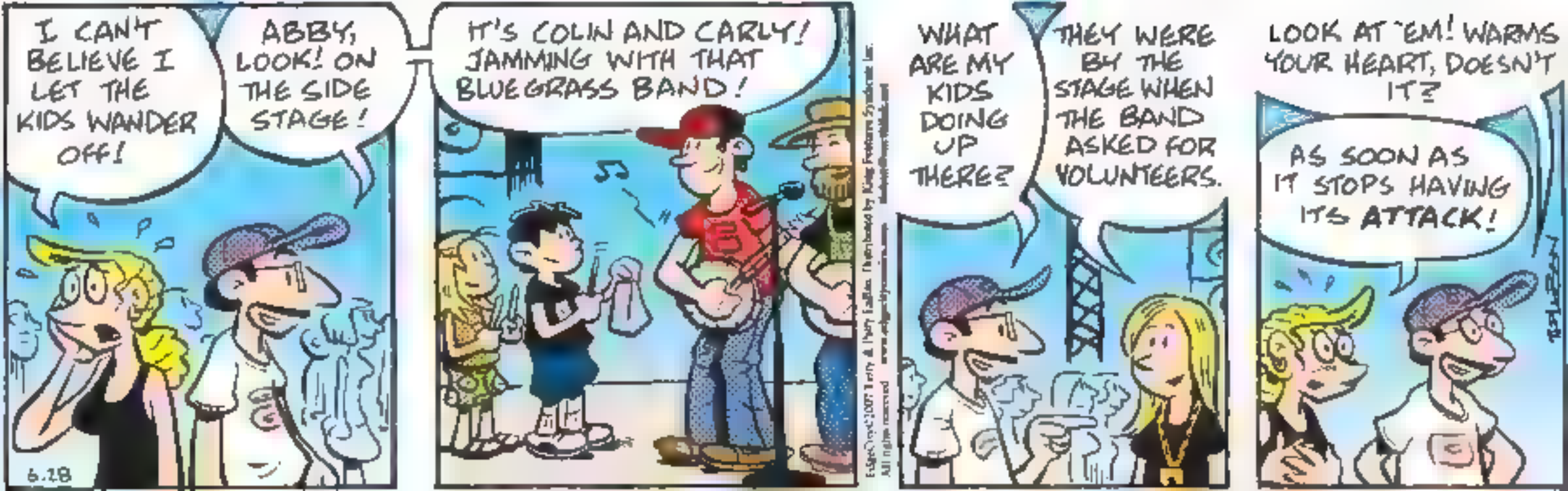
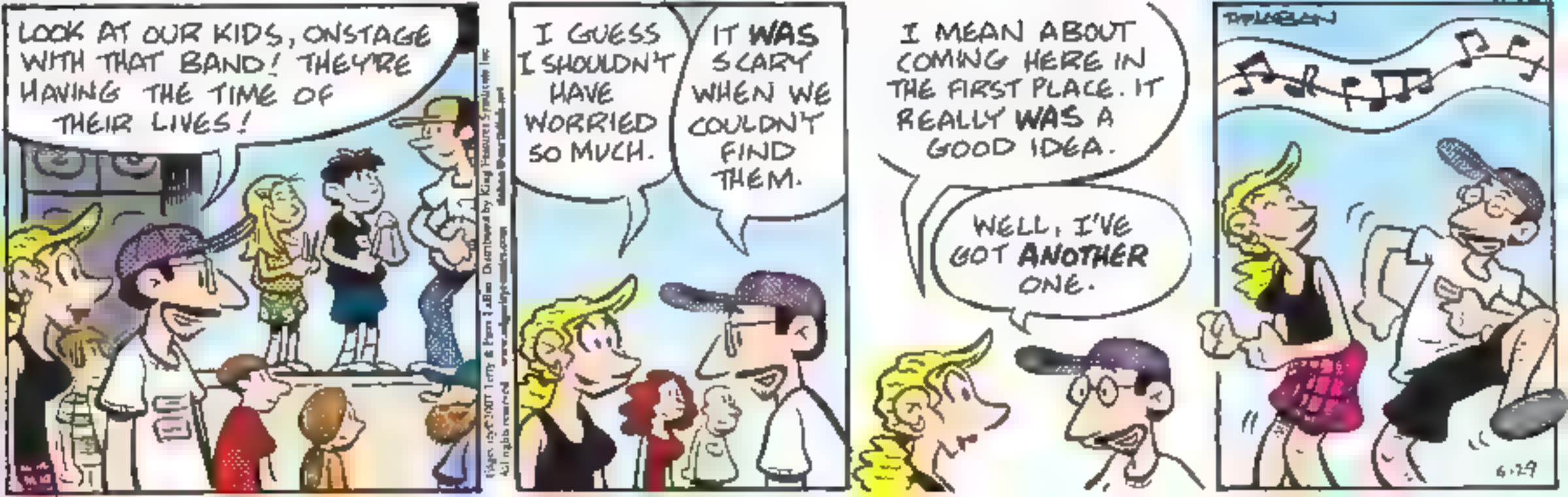

I CAN'T BELIEVE I LET THE KIDS WANDER OFF!
ABBY, LOOK! ON THE SIDE STAGE!
6.28
IT'S COLIN AND CARLY! JAMMING WITH THAT BLUEGRASS BAND!
WHAT ARE MY KIDS DOING UP THERE?
THEY WERE BY THE STAGE WHEN THE BAND ASKED FOR VOLUNTEERS.
LOOK AT 'EM! WARMS YOUR HEART, DOESN'T IT?
AS SOON AS IT STOPS HAVING ITS ATTACK!


LOOK AT OUR KIDS, ONSTAGE WITH THAT BAND! THEY'RE HAVING THE TIME OF THEIR LIVES!
I GUESS I SHOULDN'T HAVE WORRIED SO MUCH.
IT WAS SCARY WHEN WE COULDN'T FIND THEM.
I MEAN ABOUT COMING HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE. IT REALLY WAS A GOOD IDEA.
WELL, I'VE GOT ANOTHER ONE.
6-29

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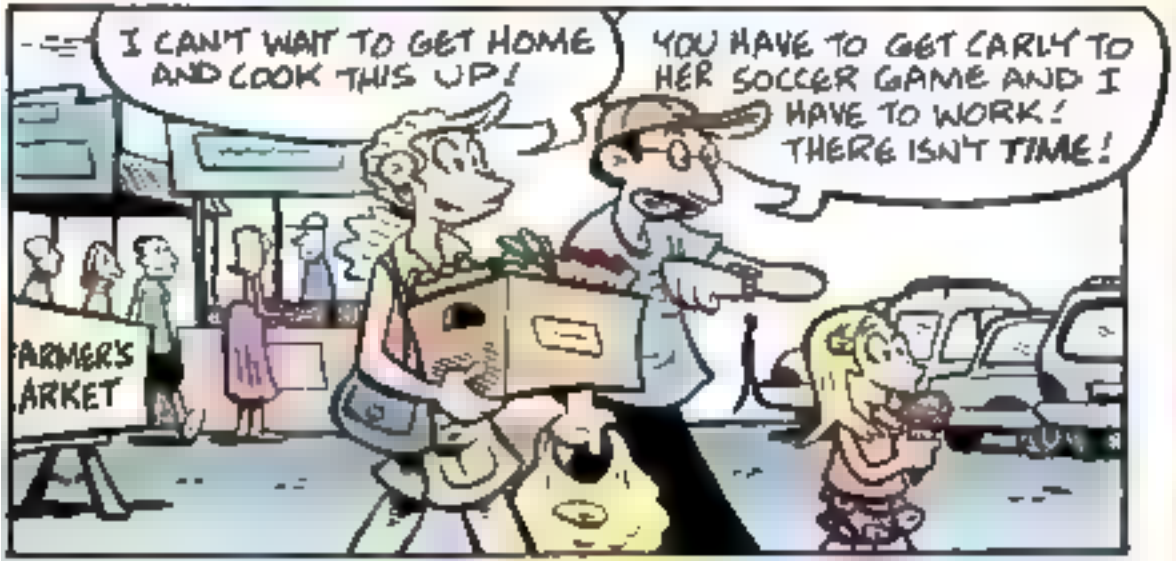
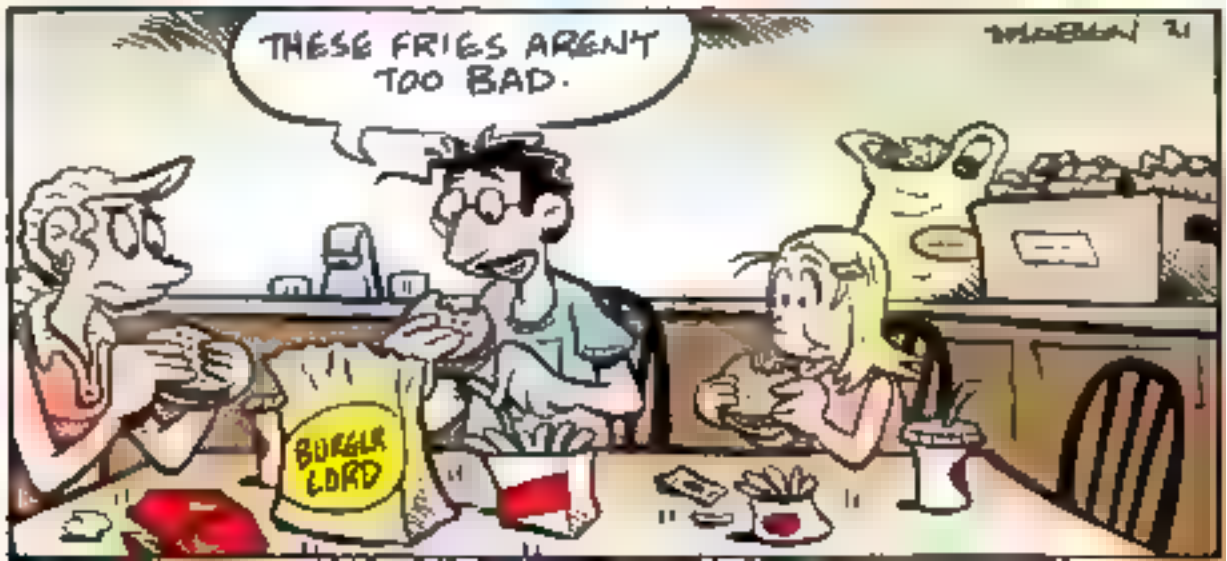
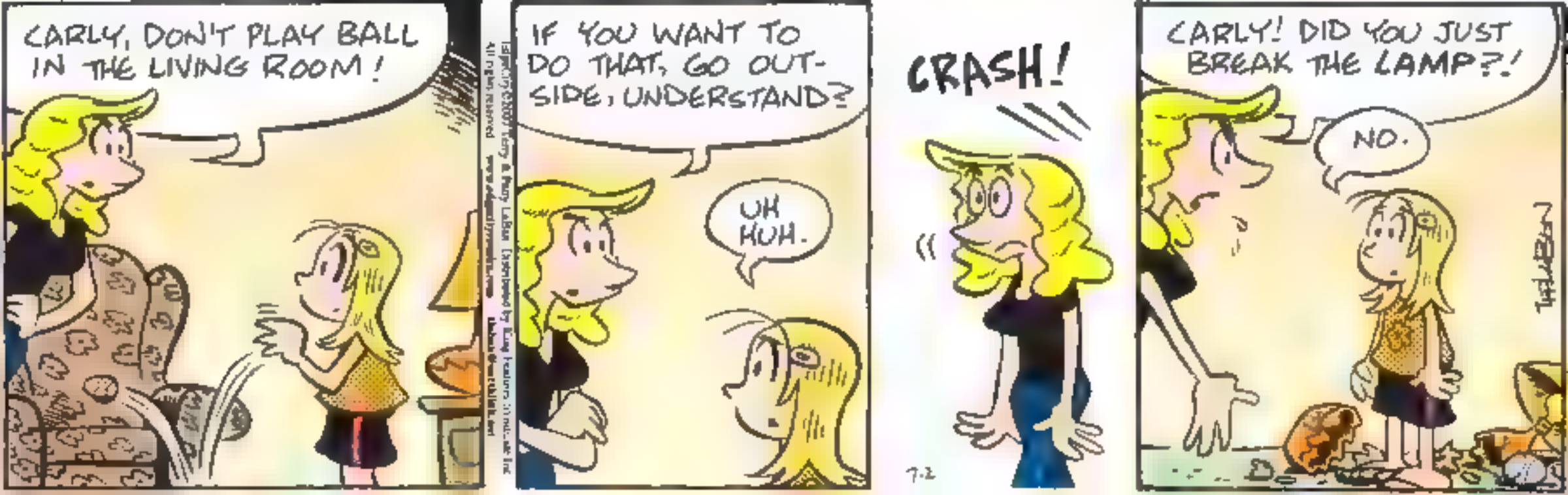
THIS MESCLUN MIX LOOKS BEAUTIFUL AND ALSO THESE ORGANIC PEPPERS.

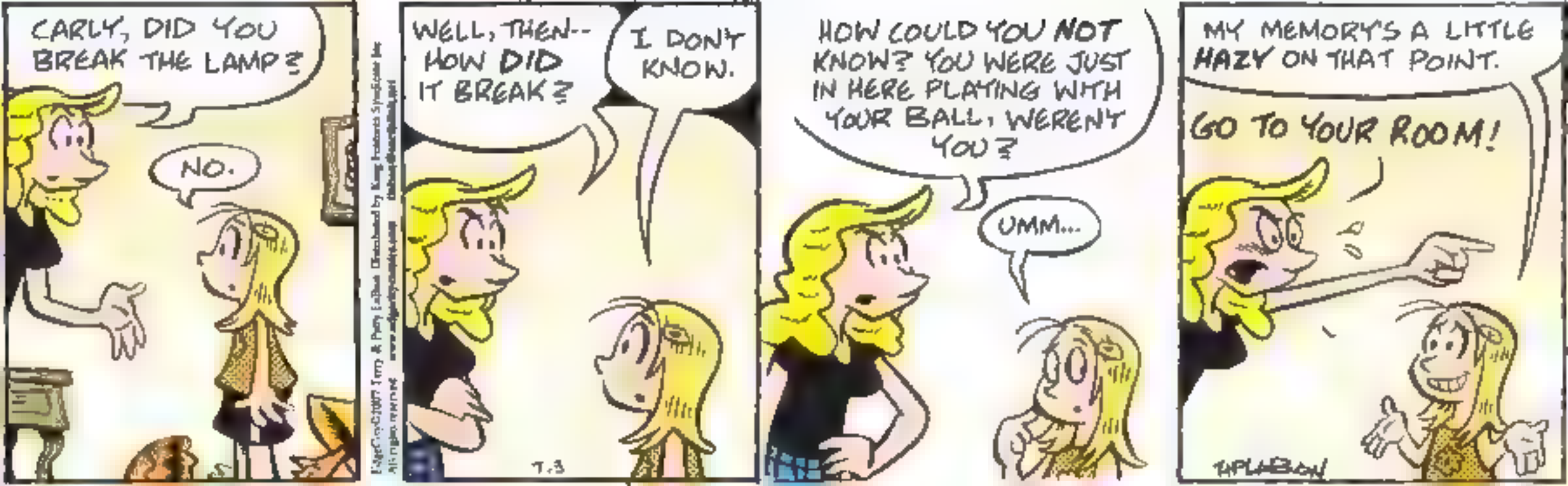
WE'VE GOT TO GET SOME OF THESE SUMMER SQUASHES AND A SAMPLING OF HEIRLOOM TOMATOES!

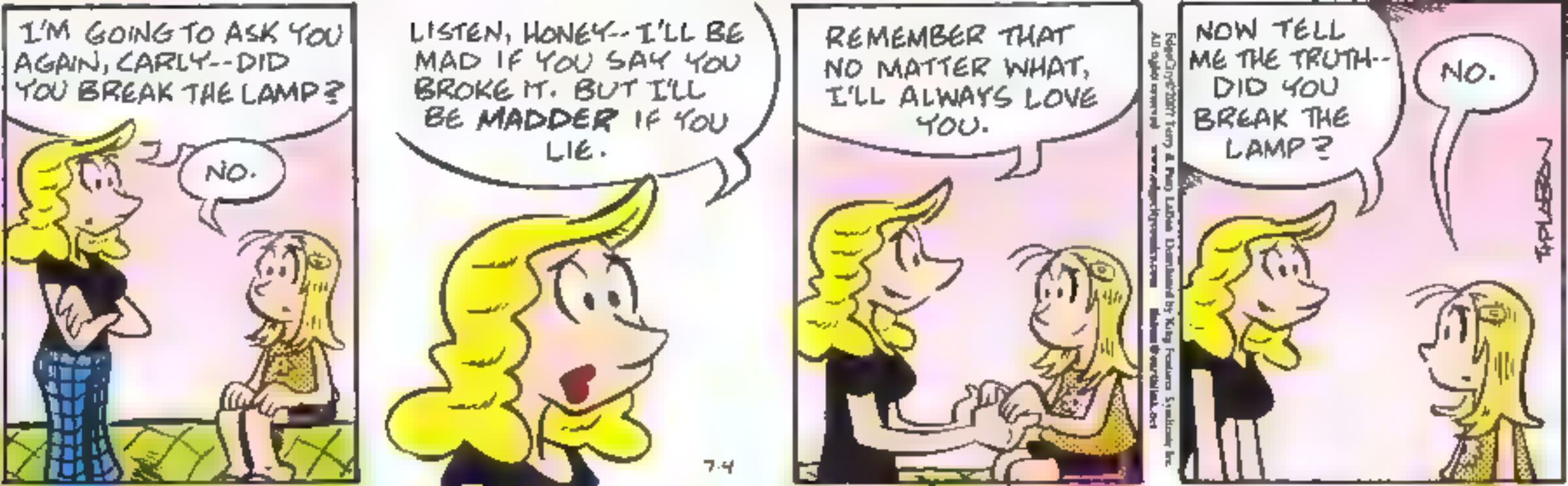
WE'LL TAKE A QUART OF THE KING-SIZED STRAWBERRIES AND THE WHITE PEACHES, TOO.

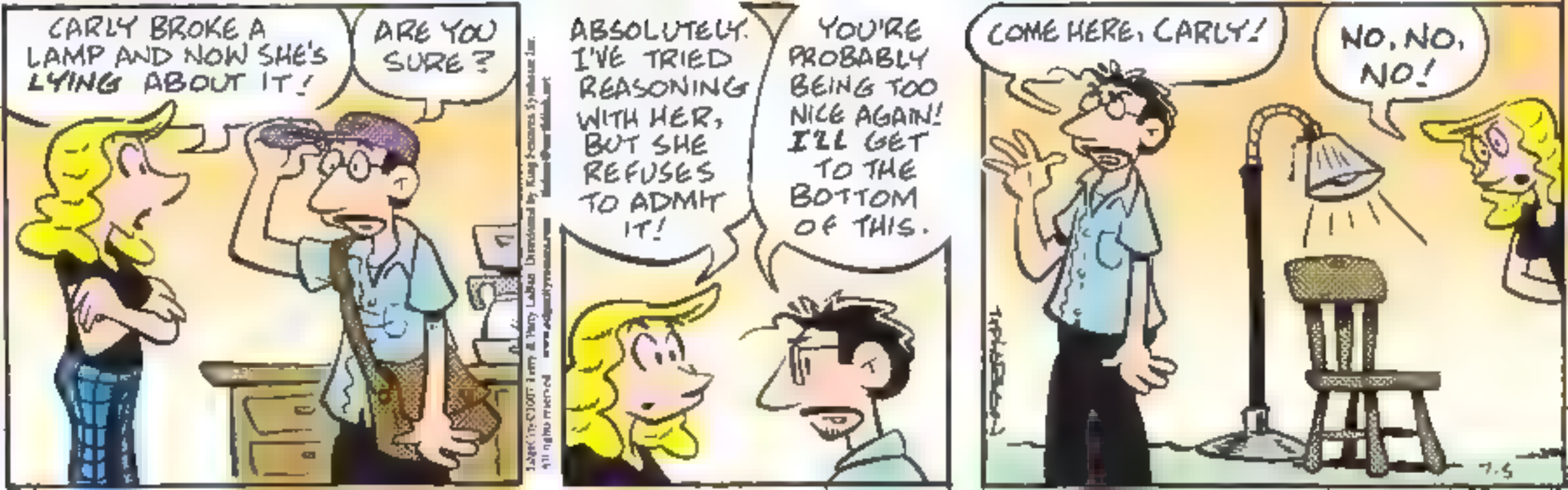

I CAN'T WAIT TO GET HOME AND COOK THIS UP!
YOU HAVE TO GET CARLY TO HER SOCCER GAME AND I HAVE TO WORK! THERE ISN'T TIME!
ARMER'S ARKET

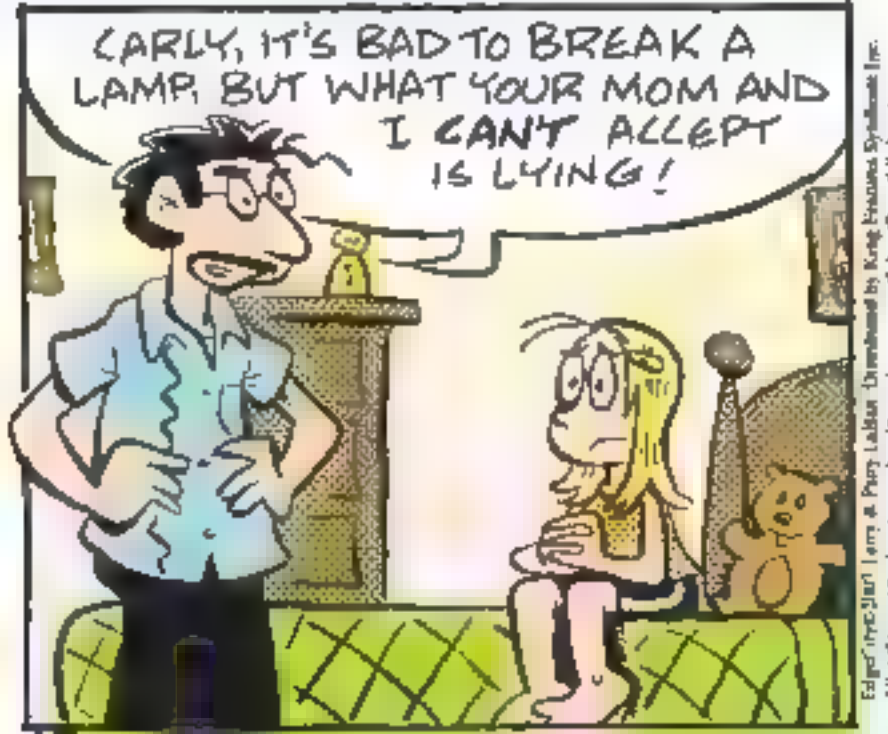

THESE FRIES AREN'T TOO BAD.
BURGER LORD


CARLY, DON'T PLAY BALL IN THE LIVING ROOM!
IF YOU WANT TO DO THAT, GO OUTSIDE, UNDERSTAND?
UH HUH.
CRASH!
CARLY! DID YOU JUST BREAK THE LAMP?!
NO.


CARLY, DID YOU BREAK THE LAMP?
NO.
WELL, THEN-- HOW DID IT BREAK?
I DON'T KNOW.
HOW COULD YOU NOT KNOW? YOU WERE JUST IN HERE PLAYING WITH YOUR BALL, WEREN'T YOU?
UMM...
MY MEMORY'S A LITTLE HAZY ON THAT POINT.
GO TO YOUR ROOM!


I'M GOING TO ASK YOU AGAIN, CARLY--DID YOU BREAK THE LAMP?
NO.
LISTEN, HONEY--I'LL BE MAD IF YOU SAY YOU BROKE IT. BUT I'LL BE MADDER IF YOU LIE.
7-4
REMEMBER THAT NO MATTER WHAT, I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU.
NOW TELL ME THE TRUTH--DID YOU BREAK THE LAMP?
NO.


CARLY BROKE A LAMP AND NOW SHE'S LYING ABOUT IT!
ARE YOU SURE?
ABSOLUTELY. I'VE TRIED REASONING WITH HER, BUT SHE REFUSES TO ADMIT IT!
YOU'RE PROBABLY BEING TOO NICE AGAIN! I'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS.
COME HERE, CARLY!
NO, NO, NO!



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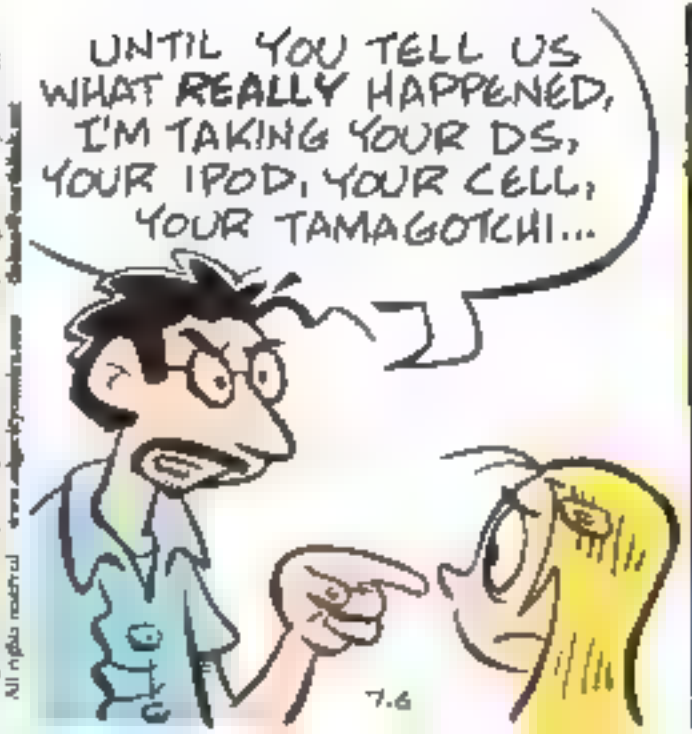
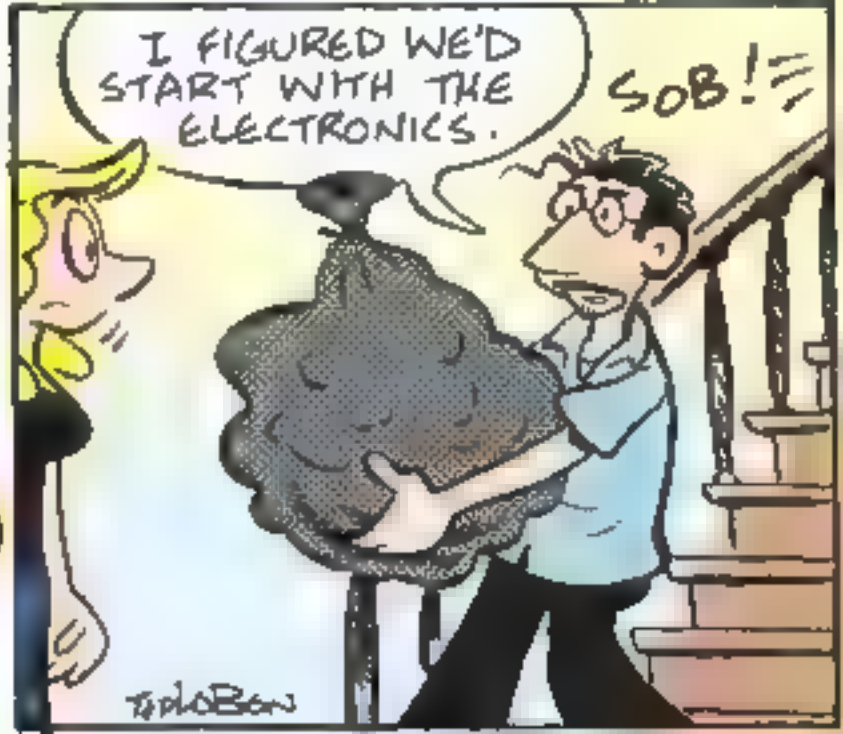
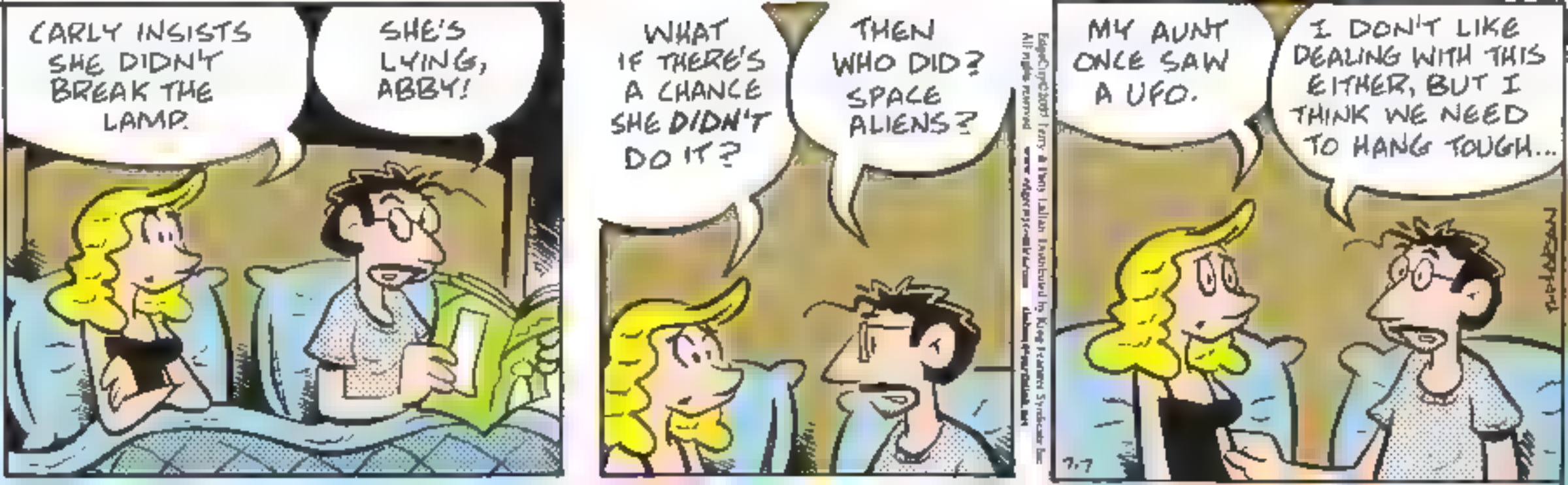
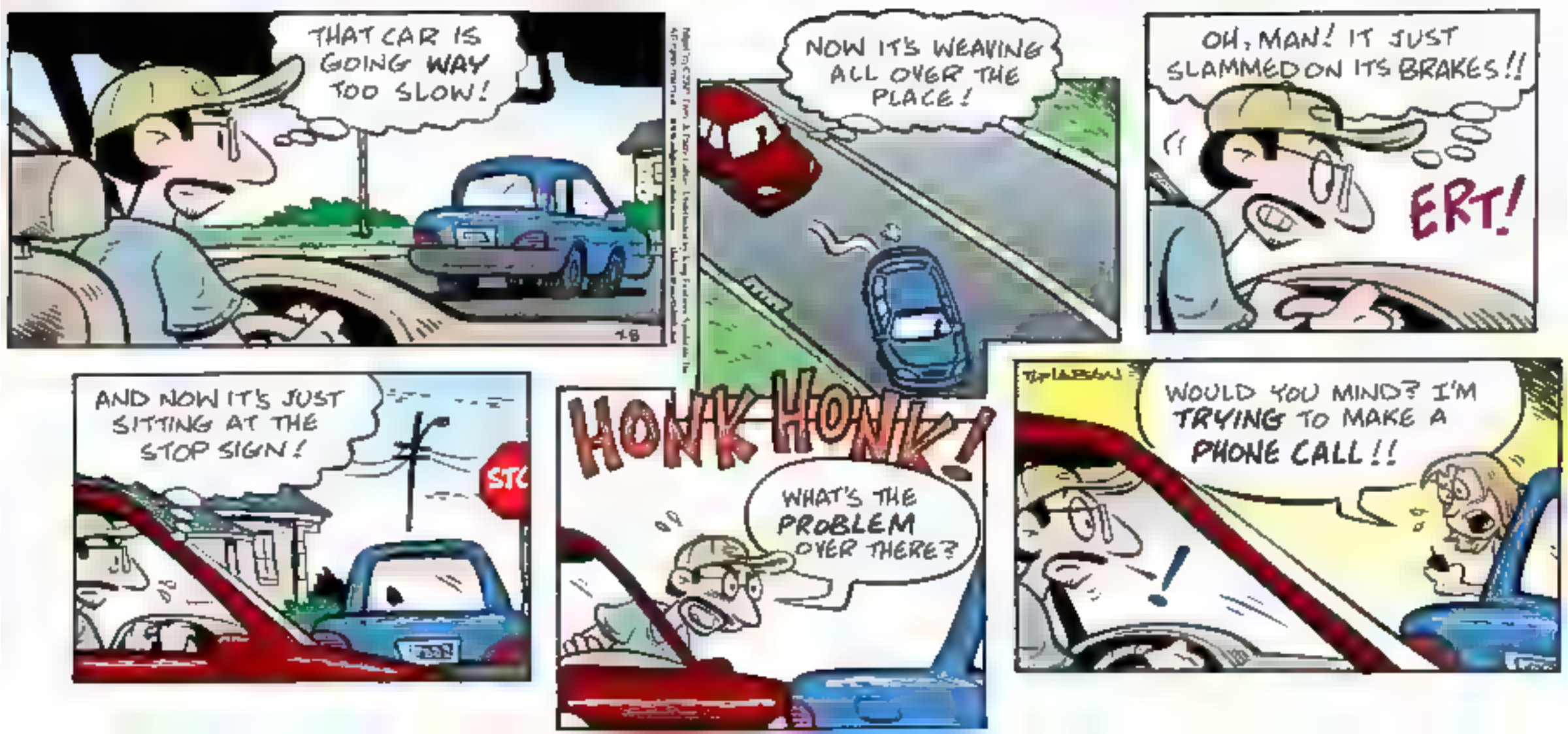
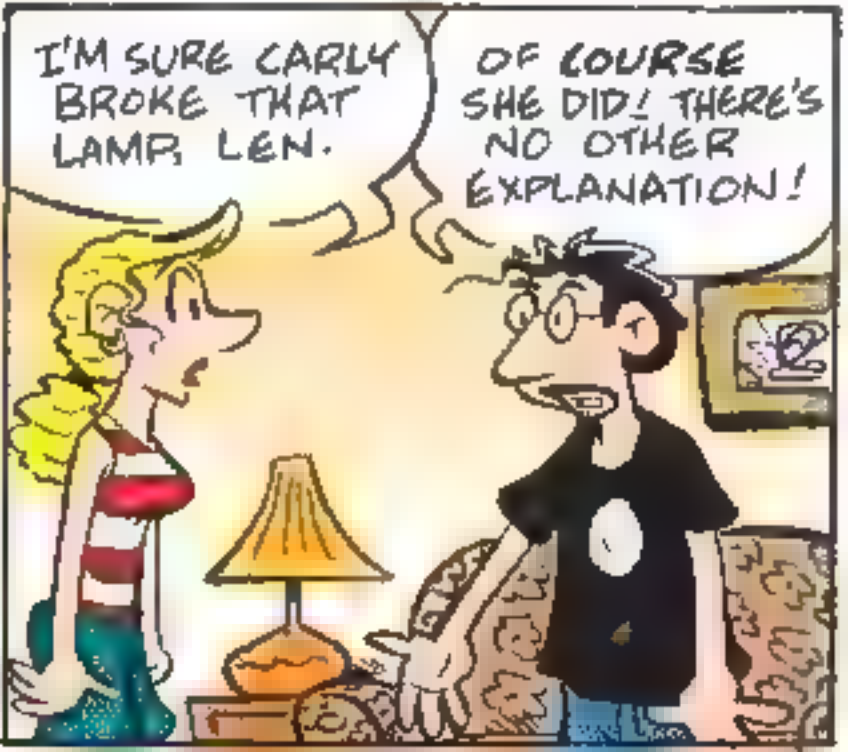




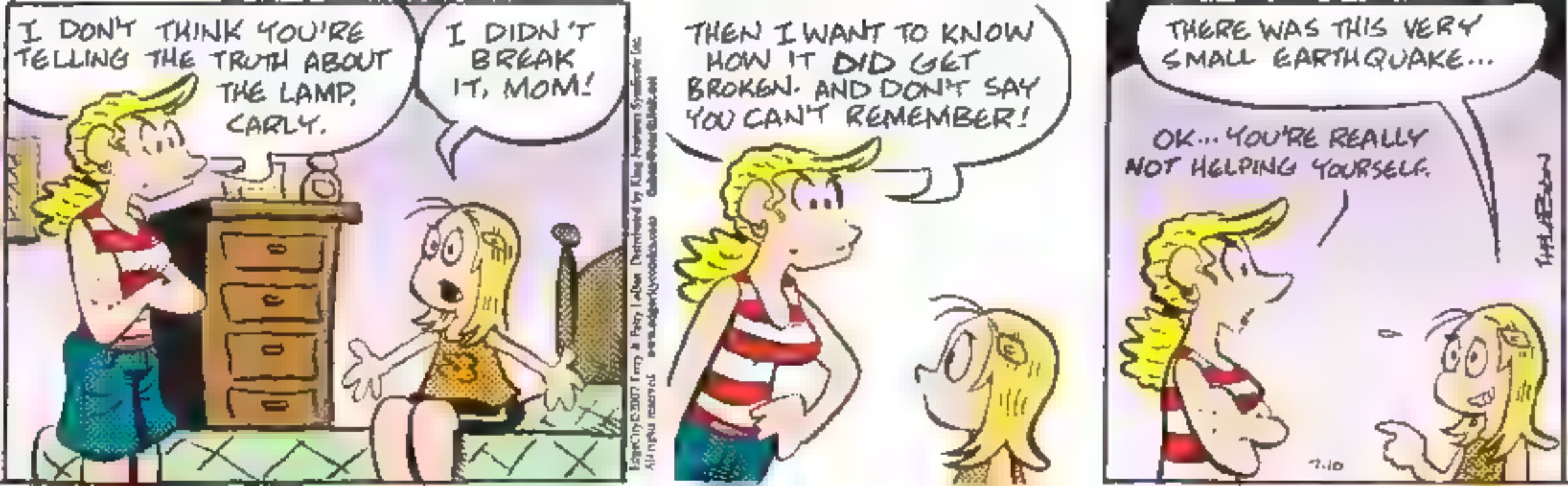

CARLY INSISTS SHE DIDN'T BREAK THE LAMP.
SHE'S LYING, ABBY!
WHAT IF THERE'S A CHANCE SHE DIDN'T DO IT?
THEN WHO DID? SPACE ALIENS?
MY AUNT ONCE SAW A UFO.
I DON'T LIKE DEALING WITH THIS EITHER, BUT I THINK WE NEED TO HANG TOUGH...
7-7

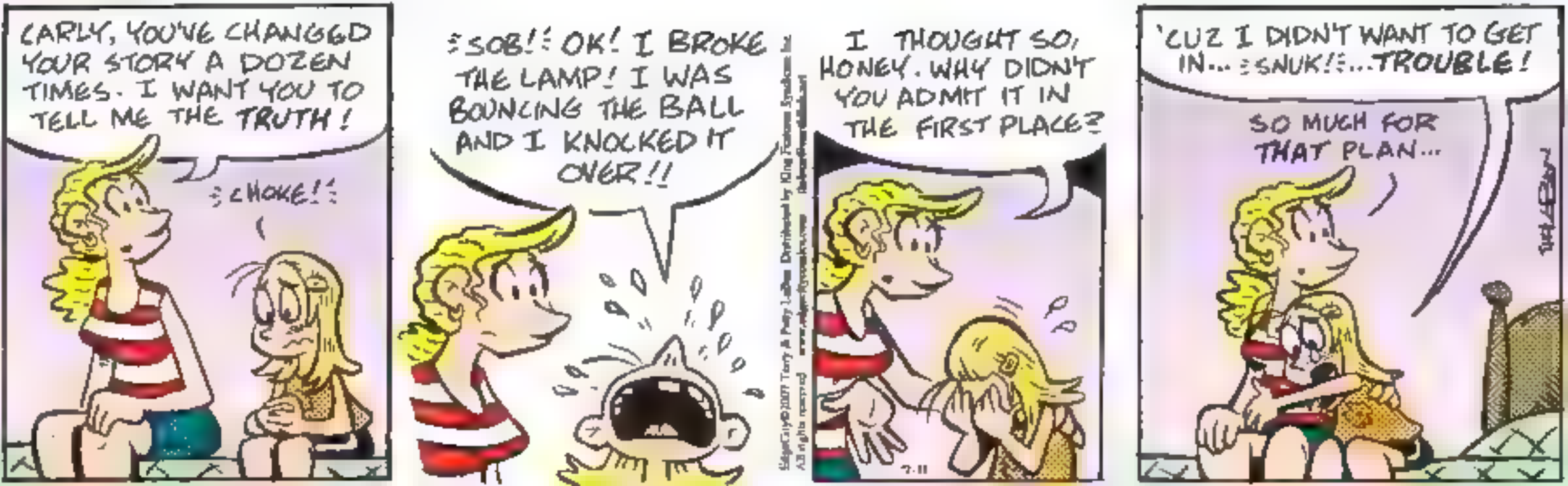

THAT CAR IS GOING WAY TOO SLOW!
NOW IT'S WEAVING ALL OVER THE PLACE!
OH, MAN! IT JUST SLAMMED ON ITS BRAKES!!
ERT!
AND NOW IT'S JUST SITTING AT THE STOP SIGN!
STO
HONK HONK!
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM OVER THERE?
WOULD YOU MIND? I'M TRYING TO MAKE A PHONE CALL!!

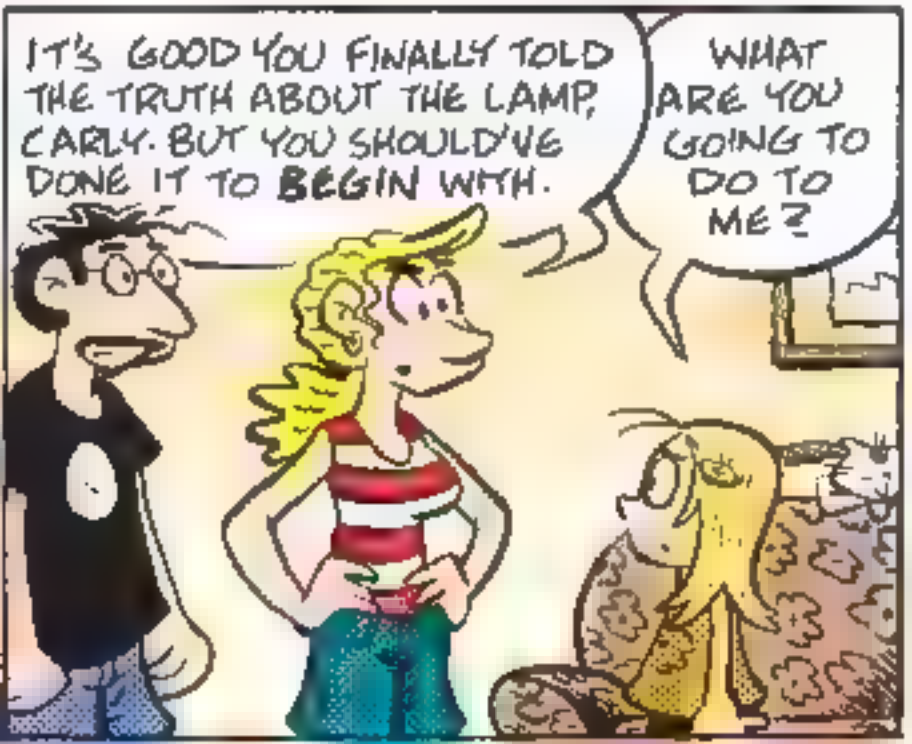

I'M SURE CARLY BROKE THAT LAMP, LEN.
OF COURSE SHE DID! THERE'S NO OTHER EXPLANATION!

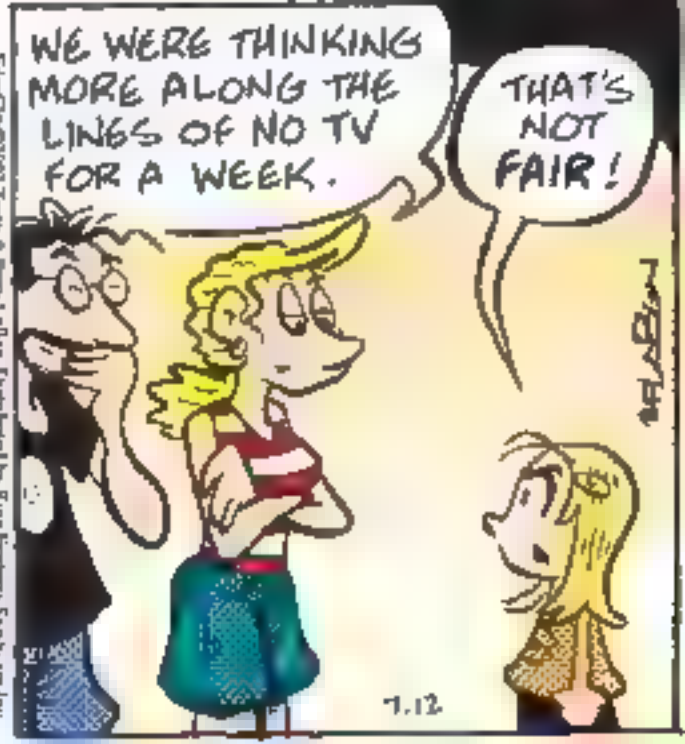
BUT I DIDN'T SEE HER DO IT!
SO WHAT? WE KNOW SHE'S LYING!

AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, "INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY" STOPS AT OUR FRONT DOOR!


I DON'T THINK YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT THE LAMP, CARLY.
I DIDN'T BREAK IT, MOM!
THEN I WANT TO KNOW HOW IT DID GET BROKEN. AND DON'T SAY YOU CAN'T REMEMBER!
THERE WAS THIS VERY SMALL EARTHQUAKE...
OK... YOU'RE REALLY NOT HELPING YOURSELF.


CARLY, YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR STORY A DOZEN TIMES. I WANT YOU TO TELL ME THE TRUTH!
:CHOKE!:
:SOB!: OK! I BROKE THE LAMP! I WAS BOUNCING THE BALL AND I KNOCKED IT OVER!!
I THOUGHT SO, HONEY. WHY DIDN'T YOU ADMIT IT IN THE FIRST PLACE?
'CUZ I DIDN'T WANT TO GET IN... :SNUK!:...TROUBLE!
SO MUCH FOR THAT PLAN...





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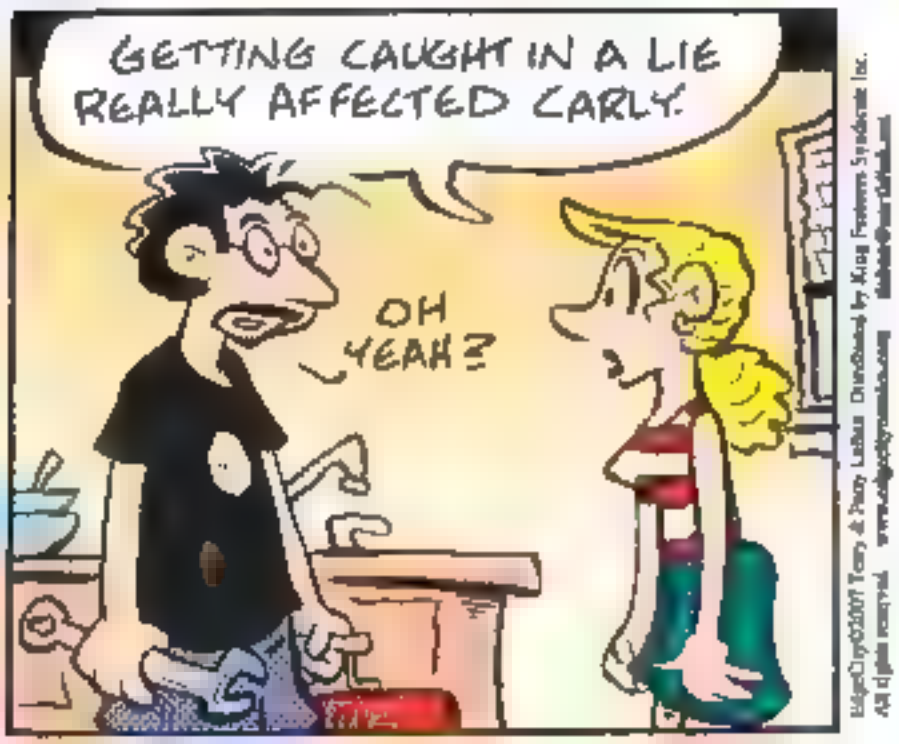

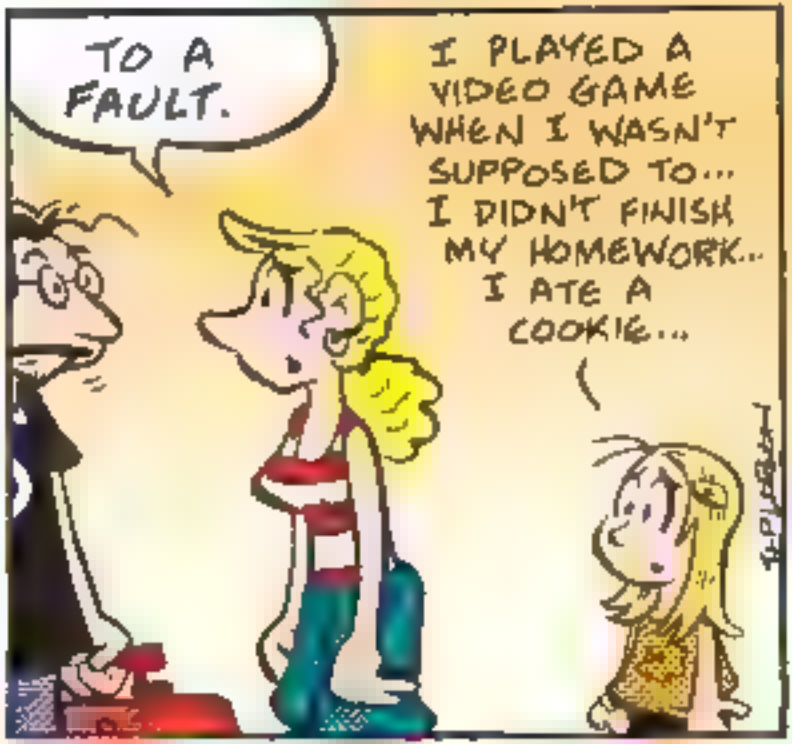

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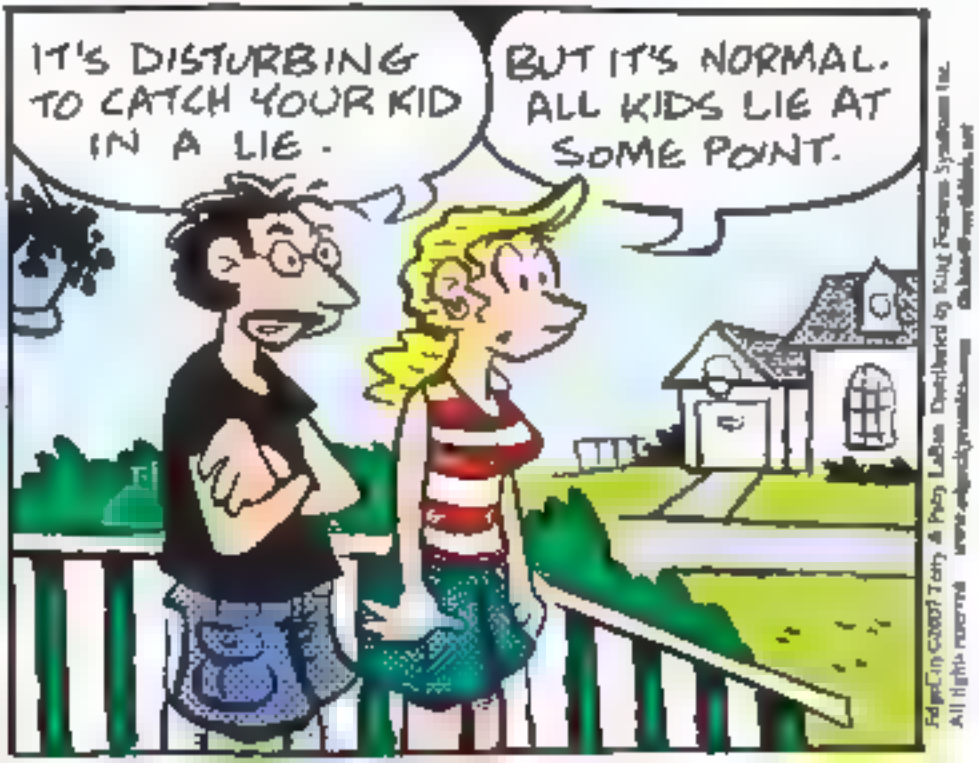
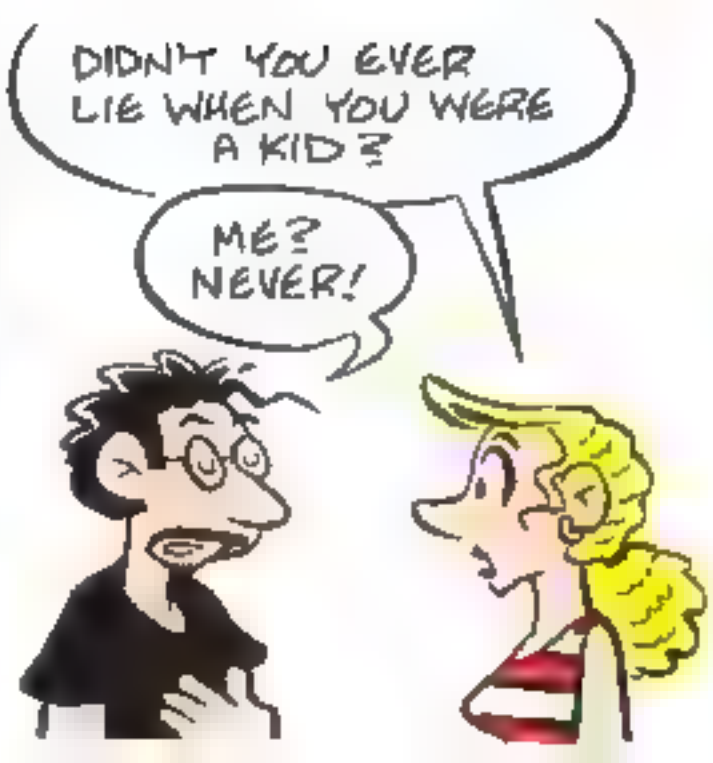
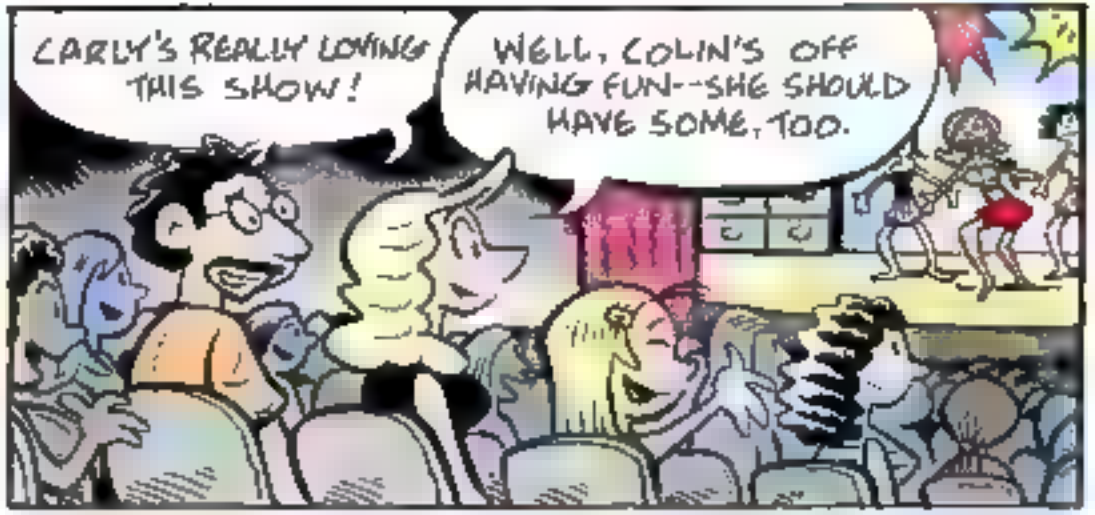

IT'S DISTURBING TO CATCH YOUR KID IN A LIE.
BUT IT'S NORMAL. ALL KIDS LIE AT SOME POINT.


DIDN'T YOU EVER LIE WHEN YOU WERE A KID?
ME? NEVER!

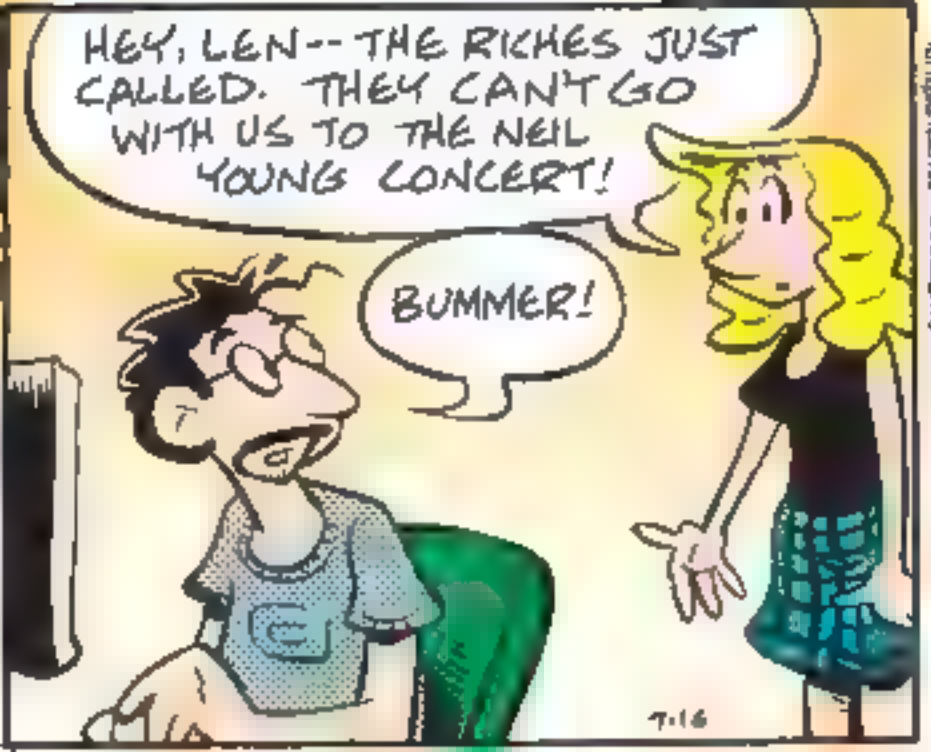
I'M NOT SURE I BELIEVE YOU.
THAT'S WHAT MY MOM USED TO SAY!

I DON'T COOK THIS OFTEN BECAUSE COLIN DOESN'T LIKE IT. BUT SINCE HE'S AWAY AT CAMP...


CARLY'S REALLY LOVING THIS SHOW!
WELL, COLIN'S OFF HAVING FUN--SHE SHOULD HAVE SOME, TOO.

I GUESS IT'S OK TO READ COLIN'S COMICS WHILE HE'S AWAY--JUST DON'T MESS UP HIS ROOM.
KEEP OUT!
POWER BOOK

C'MON, CARLY! DON'T YOU MISS YOUR BROTHER JUST A LITTLE BIT?
SINCE IT'S JUST THE THREE OF US, I THOUGHT I'D ORDER A SPECIAL TREAT...



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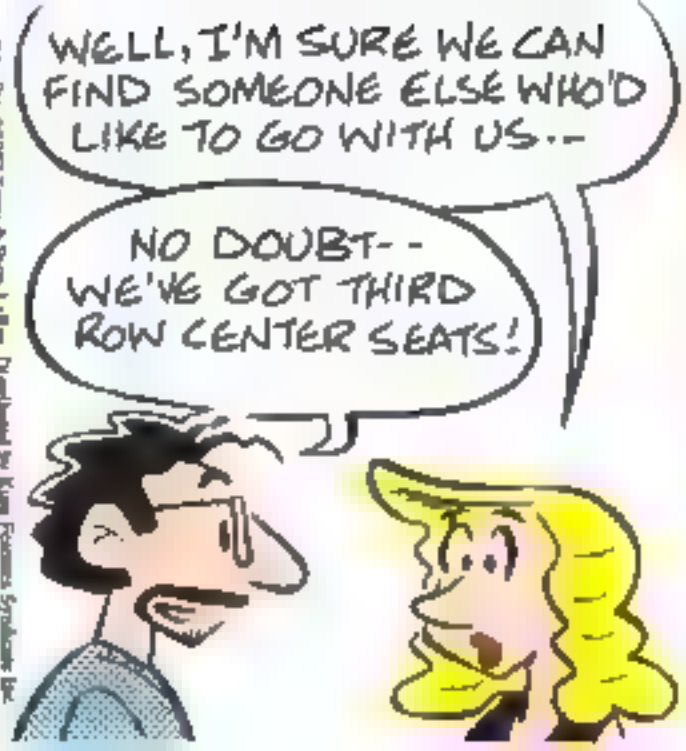

I'LL BET SAM AND MAY WOULD LIKE OUR EXTRA NEIL YOUNG TICKETS.
IT SEEMS LIKE WE ALWAYS GO TO CONCERTS WITH THEM.
RIGHT-- THEY'RE OLD FRIENDS.
WELL, THIS IS A CHANCE TO MAKE SOME NEW ONES.
MAYBE WE SHOULD ASK THE TAYLORS.
THEY SEEM COOL. BUT I DON'T KNOW...
I MEAN, WE'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING WITH THEM BEFORE.
NOT QUITE CLEAR ON THE CONCEPT, ARE YOU?

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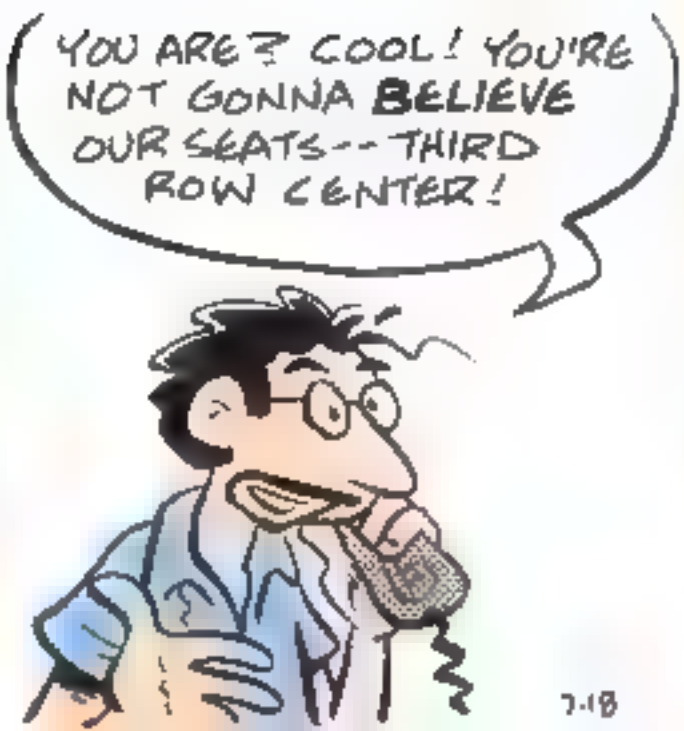
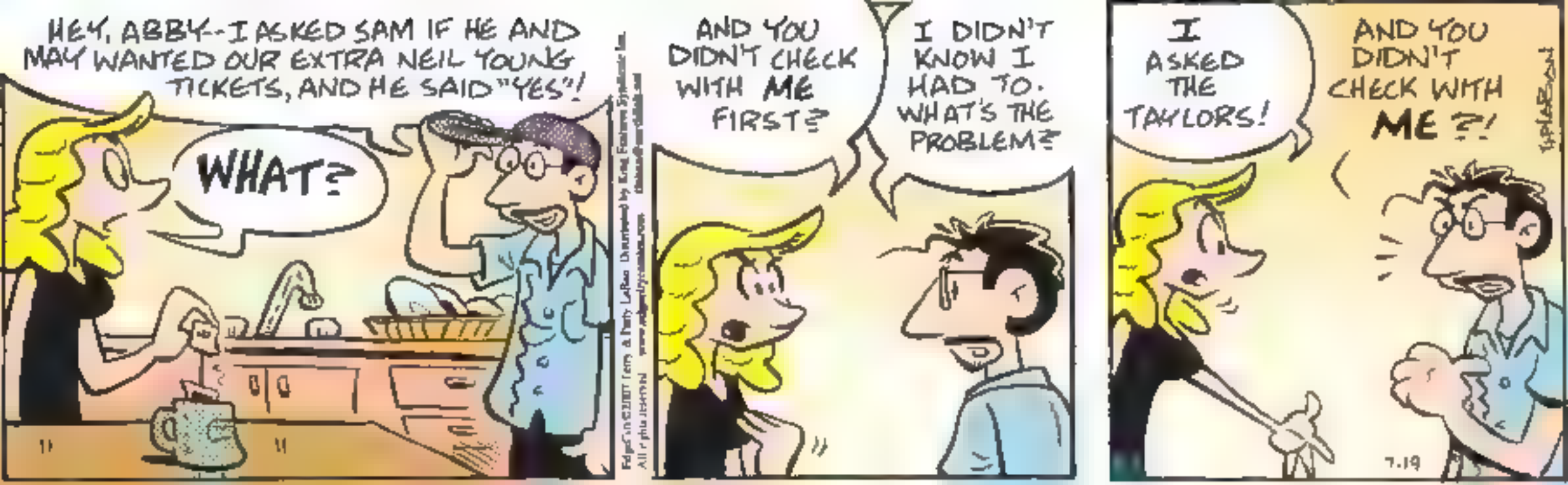
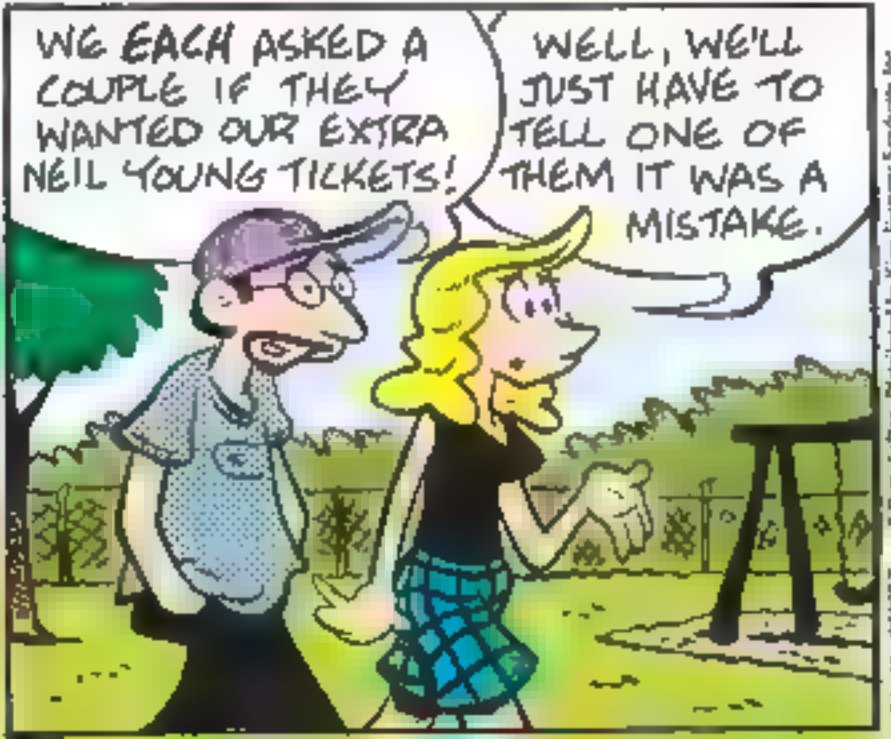



HEY, ABBY--I ASKED SAM IF HE AND MAY WANTED OUR EXTRA NEIL YOUNG TICKETS, AND HE SAID "YES"!
WHAT?
AND YOU DIDN'T CHECK WITH ME FIRST?
I DIDN'T KNOW I HAD TO. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
I ASKED THE TAYLORS!
AND YOU DIDN'T CHECK WITH ME?!
7-19



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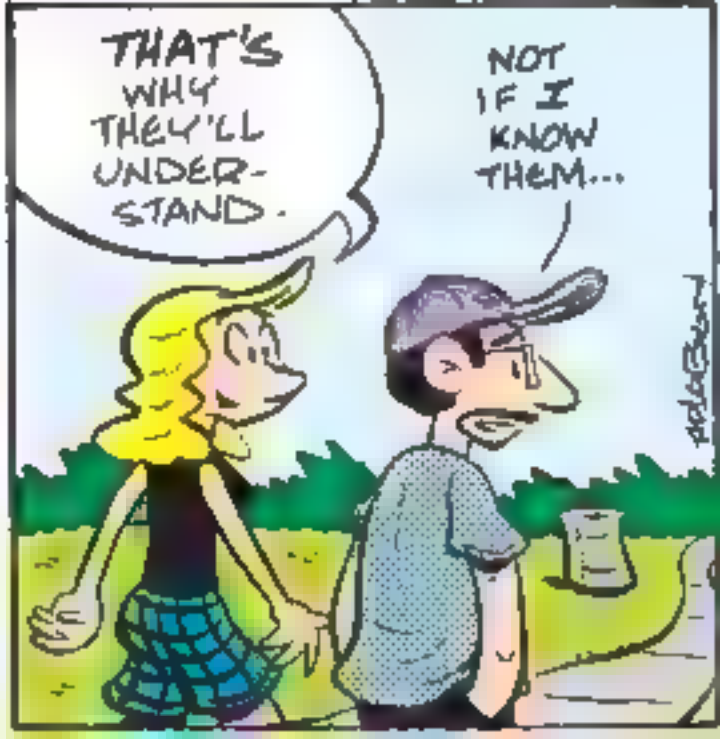

IF WE HAVE TO TELL SOMEONE THEY CAN'T HAVE OUR EXTRA TICKETS, IT SHOULD BE THE TAYLORS. WE HARDLY KNOW THEM.

THAT'S THE **POINT**, LEN.

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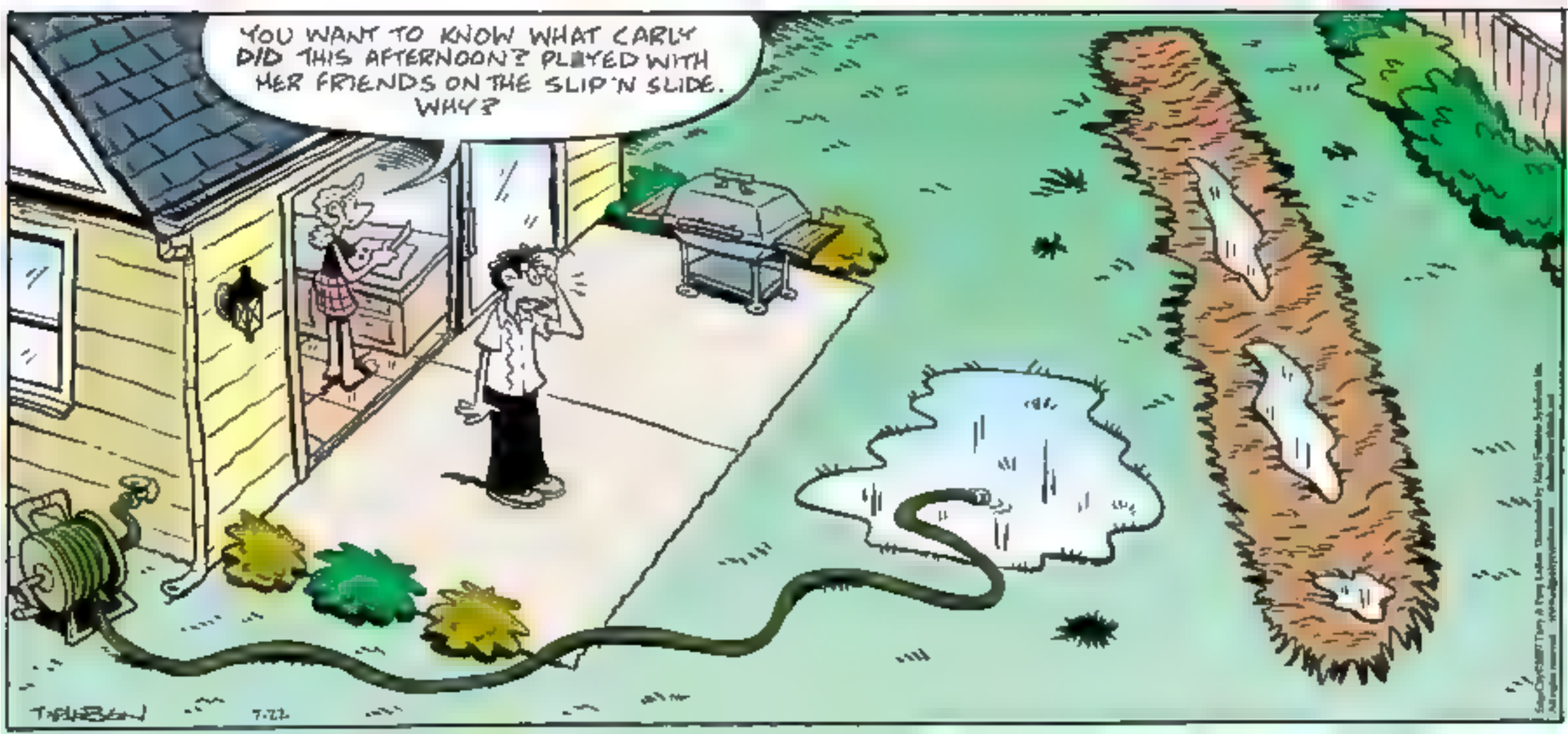
IF WE DISINVITE THEM, THEY MAY NEVER **FORGIVE** US!

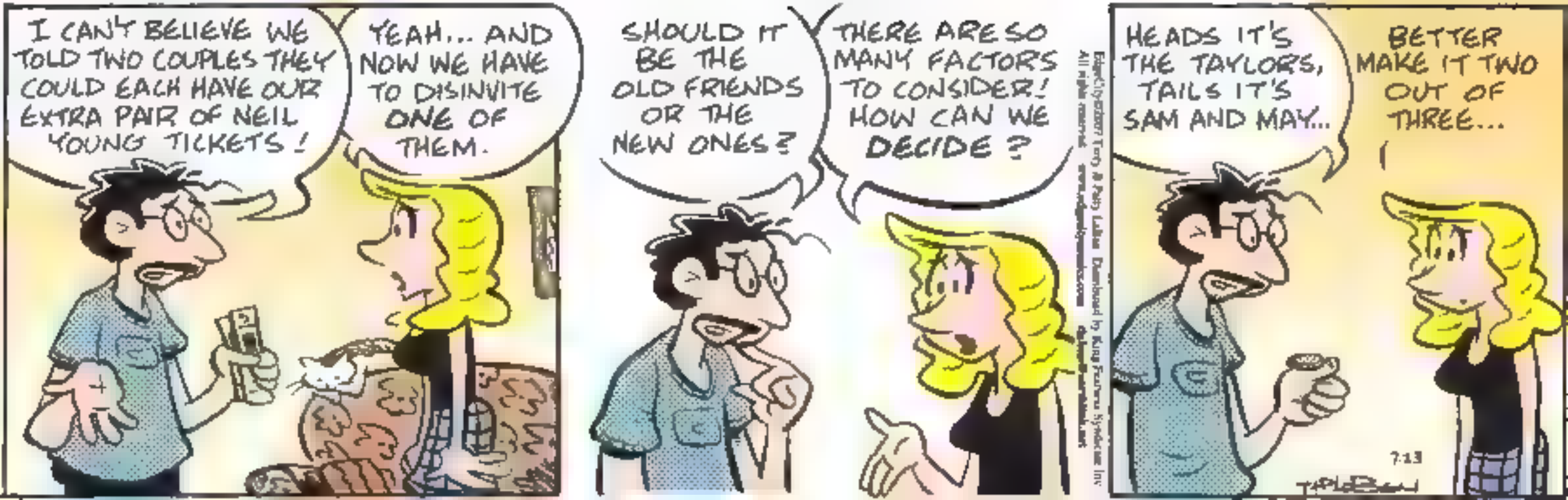
WE JUST NEED TO BE DIPLOMATIC.

7-11

WE CAN TELL THEM THEY'RE FIRST ON THE WAIT LIST!

I DON'T THINK THAT'S GOING TO **FLY**...


YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT CARLY DID THIS AFTERNOON? PLAYED WITH HER FRIENDS ON THE SLIP 'N SLIDE. WHY?
TRUEBLOOD
7-22



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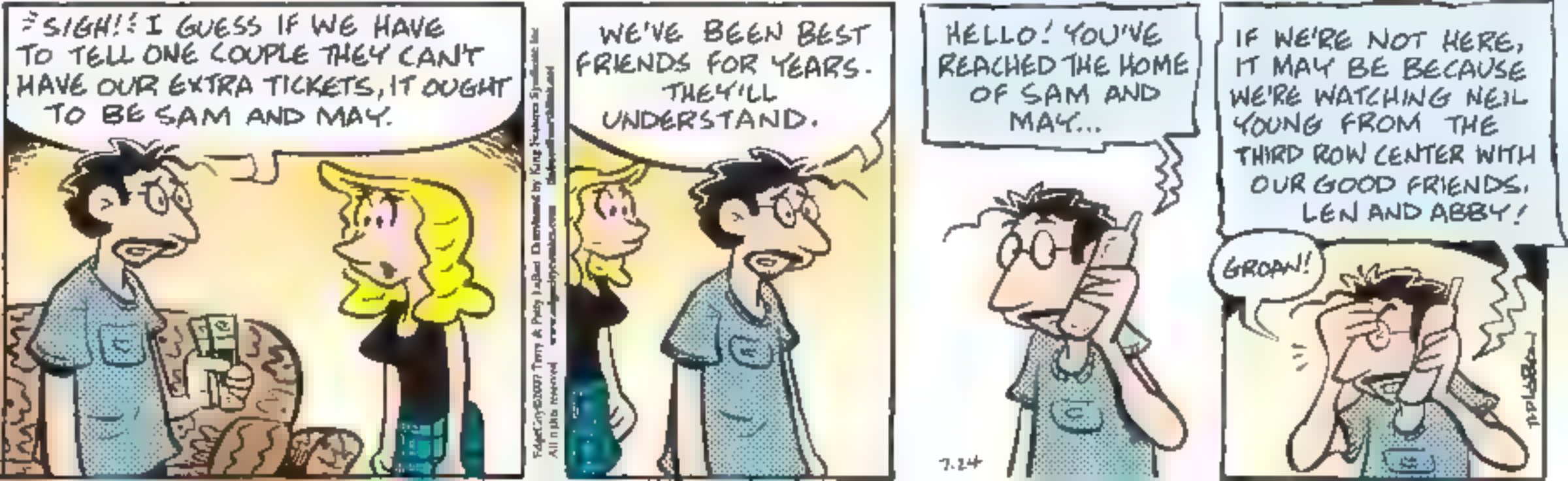
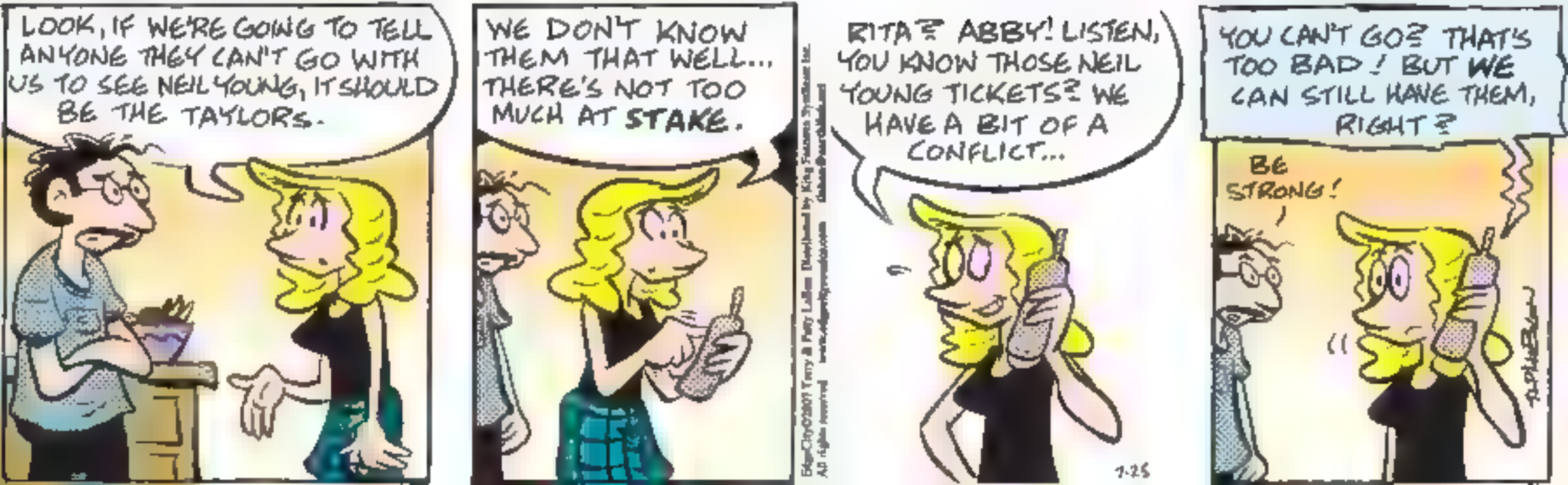
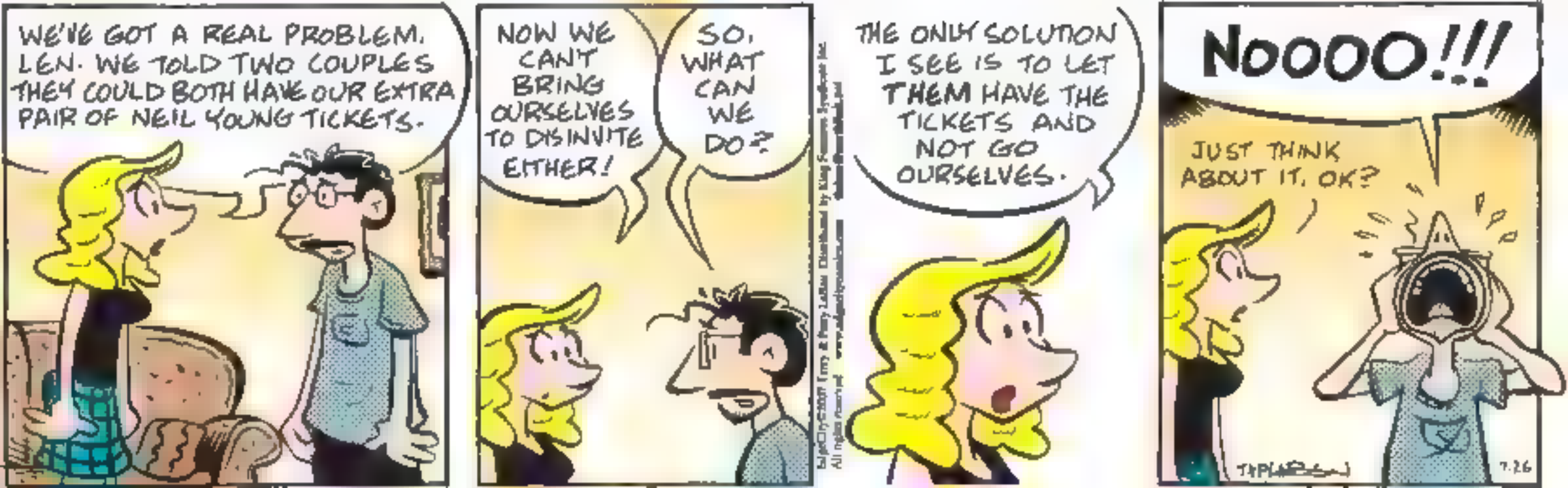
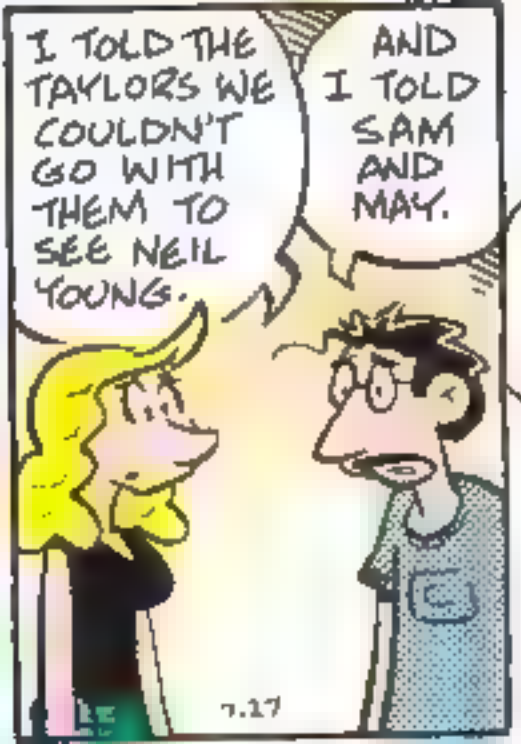
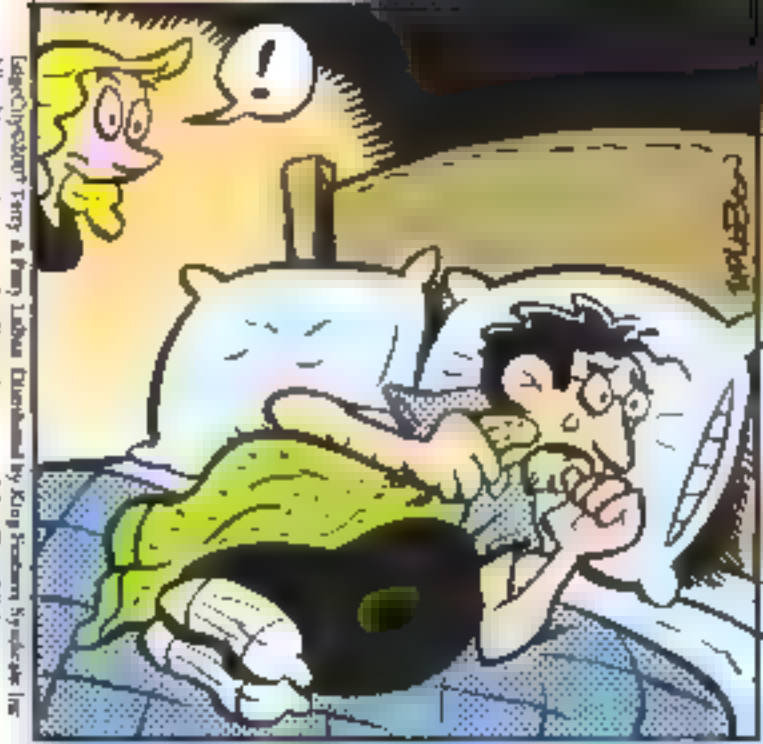

SIGH! I GUESS IF WE HAVE TO TELL ONE COUPLE THEY CAN'T HAVE OUR EXTRA TICKETS, IT OUGHT TO BE SAM AND MAY.
WE'VE BEEN BEST FRIENDS FOR YEARS. THEY'LL UNDERSTAND.
HELLO! YOU'VE REACHED THE HOME OF SAM AND MAY...
IF WE'RE NOT HERE, IT MAY BE BECAUSE WE'RE WATCHING NEIL YOUNG FROM THE THIRD ROW CENTER WITH OUR GOOD FRIENDS, LEN AND ABBY!
GROAN!
7-24


LOOK, IF WE'RE GOING TO TELL ANYONE THEY CAN'T GO WITH US TO SEE NEIL YOUNG, IT SHOULD BE THE TAYLORS.
WE DON'T KNOW THEM THAT WELL... THERE'S NOT TOO MUCH AT STAKE.
RITA? ABBY! LISTEN, YOU KNOW THOSE NEIL YOUNG TICKETS? WE HAVE A BIT OF A CONFLICT...
YOU CAN'T GO? THAT'S TOO BAD! BUT WE CAN STILL HAVE THEM, RIGHT?
BE STRONG!


WE'VE GOT A REAL PROBLEM, LEN. WE TOLD TWO COUPLES THEY COULD BOTH HAVE OUR EXTRA PAIR OF NEIL YOUNG TICKETS.
NOW WE CANT BRING OURSELVES TO DISINVITE EITHER!
SO, WHAT CAN WE DO?
THE ONLY SOLUTION I SEE IS TO LET THEM HAVE THE TICKETS AND NOT GO OURSELVES.
NOOOO!!!
JUST THINK ABOUT IT, OK?
7-26





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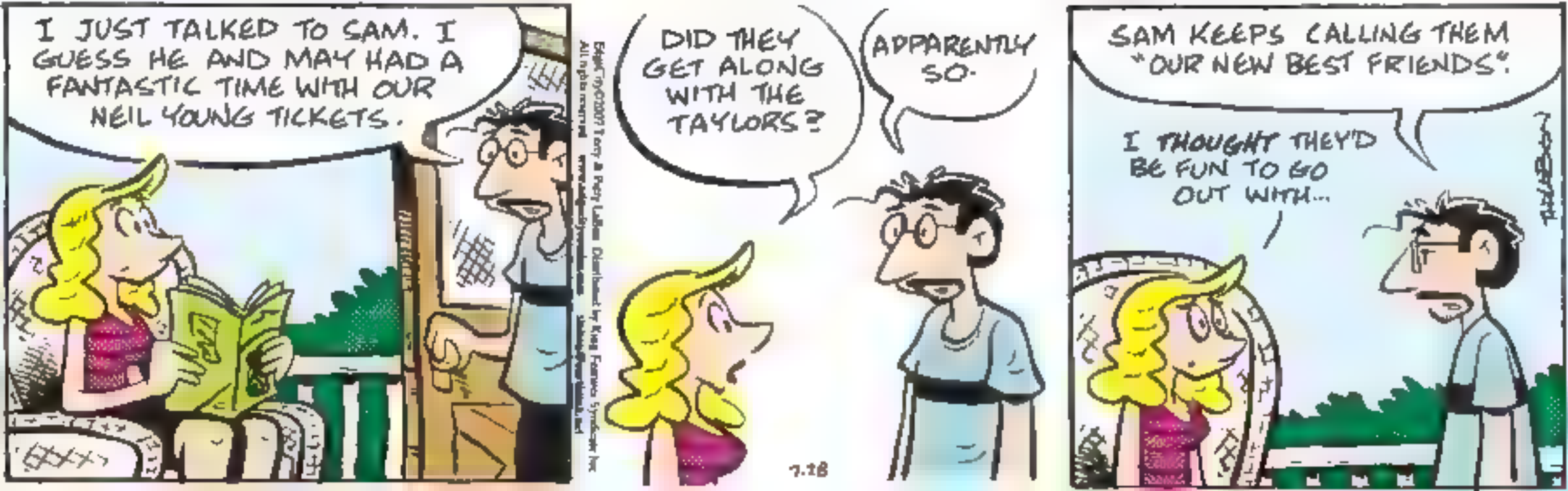
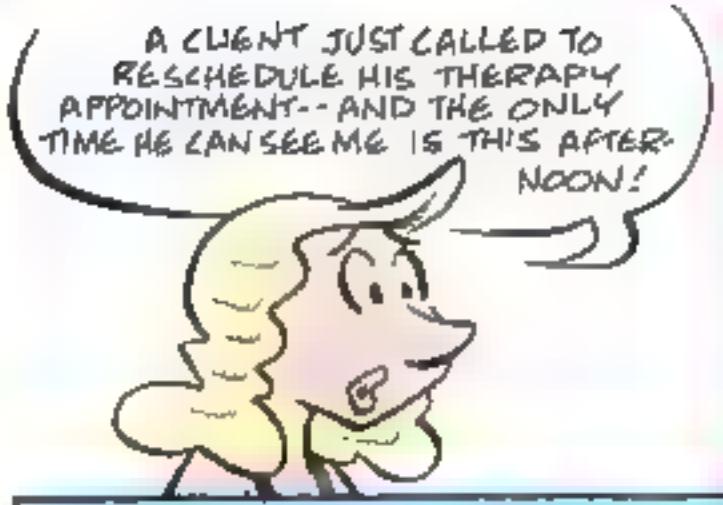
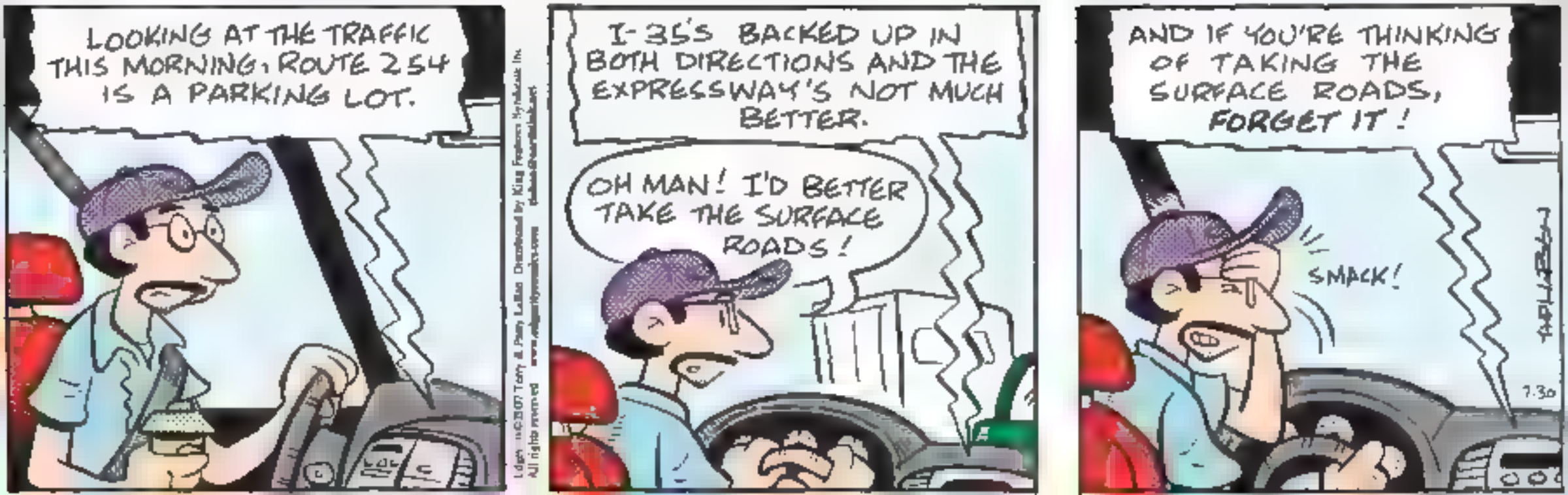

I JUST TALKED TO SAM. I GUESS HE AND MAY HAD A FANTASTIC TIME WITH OUR NEIL YOUNG TICKETS.
DID THEY GET ALONG WITH THE TAYLORS?
APPARENTLY SO.
SAM KEEPS CALLING THEM "OUR NEW BEST FRIENDS".
I THOUGHT THEY'D BE FUN TO GO OUT WITH...

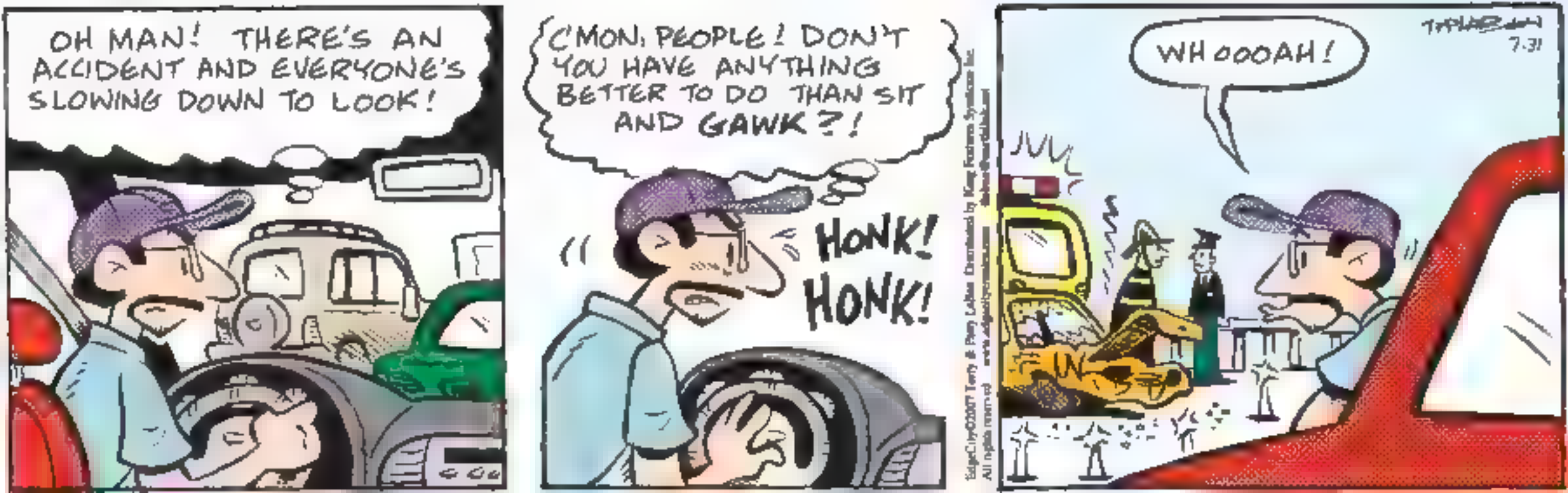
DARN IT!
WHAT'S WRONG, ABBY?

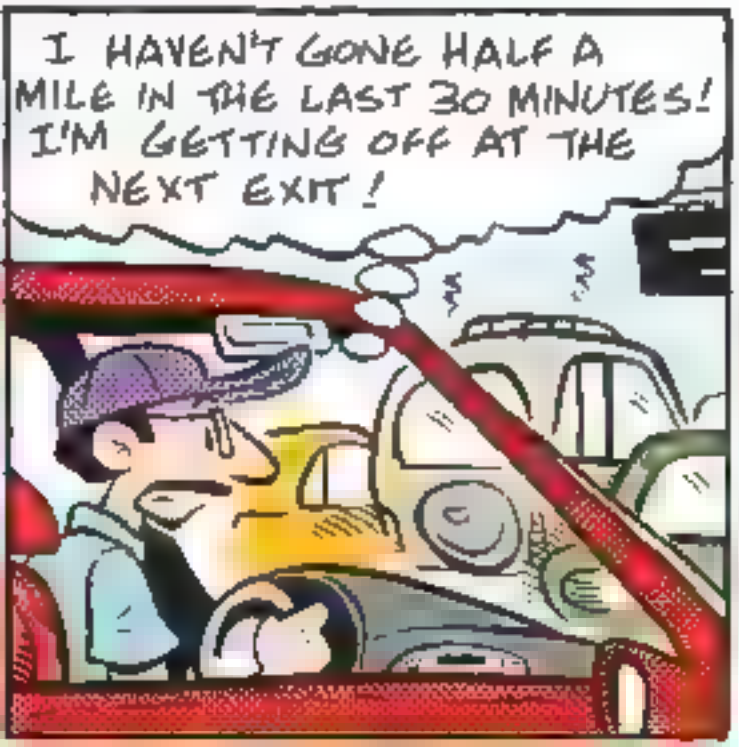

A CLIENT JUST CALLED TO RESCHEDULE HIS THERAPY APPOINTMENT--AND THE ONLY TIME HE CAN SEE ME IS THIS AFTERNOON!

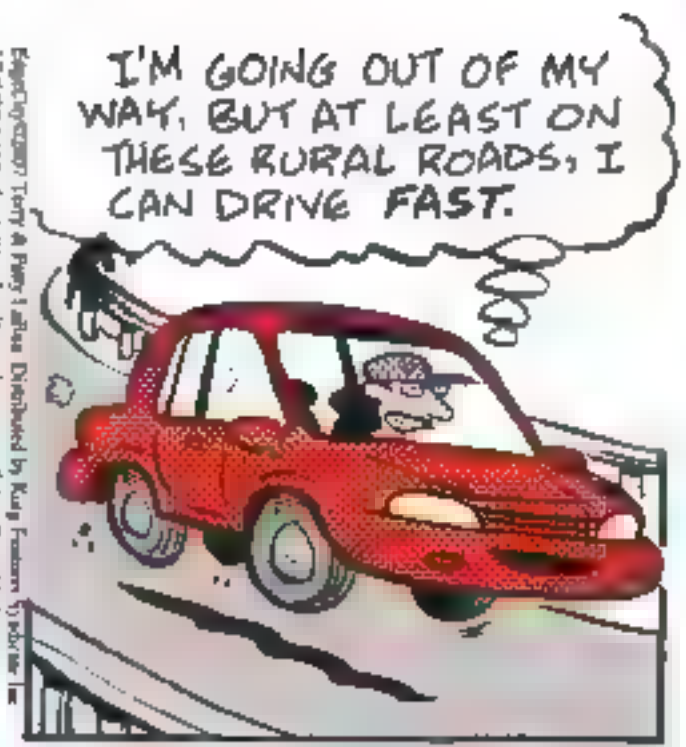
BUT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO GO TO THE LAKE.
I KNOW! I'VE BEEN REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT!

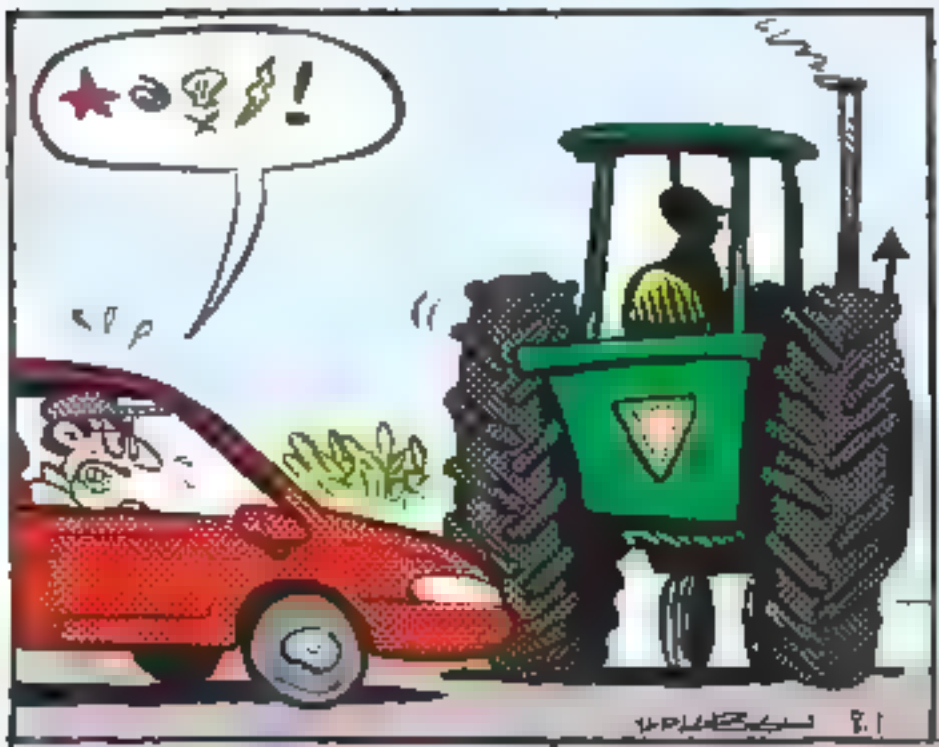
CAN'T YOU JUST TELL HIM YOU'RE NOT AVAILABLE?
HE REALLY NEEDS TO TALK. MAYBE I CAN WORK SOMETHING OUT.


LOOKING AT THE TRAFFIC THIS MORNING, ROUTE 254 IS A PARKING LOT.
I-35'S BACKED UP IN BOTH DIRECTIONS AND THE EXPRESSWAY'S NOT MUCH BETTER.
OH MAN! I'D BETTER TAKE THE SURFACE ROADS!
AND IF YOU'RE THINKING OF TAKING THE SURFACE ROADS, FORGET IT!
SMACK!
7-30


OH MAN! THERE'S AN ACCIDENT AND EVERYONE'S SLOWING DOWN TO LOOK!
C'MON, PEOPLE! DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO THAN SIT AND GAWK?!
HONK! HONK!
WHOOOAH!
7-31

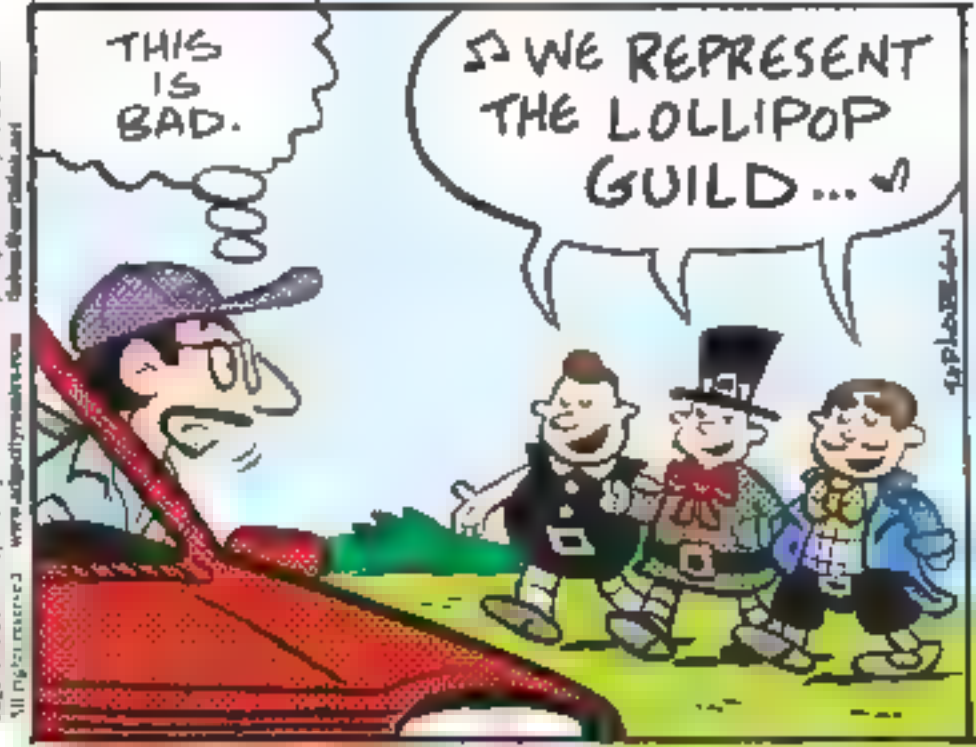

I HAVEN'T GONE HALF A MILE IN THE LAST 30 MINUTES! I'M GETTING OFF AT THE NEXT EXIT!

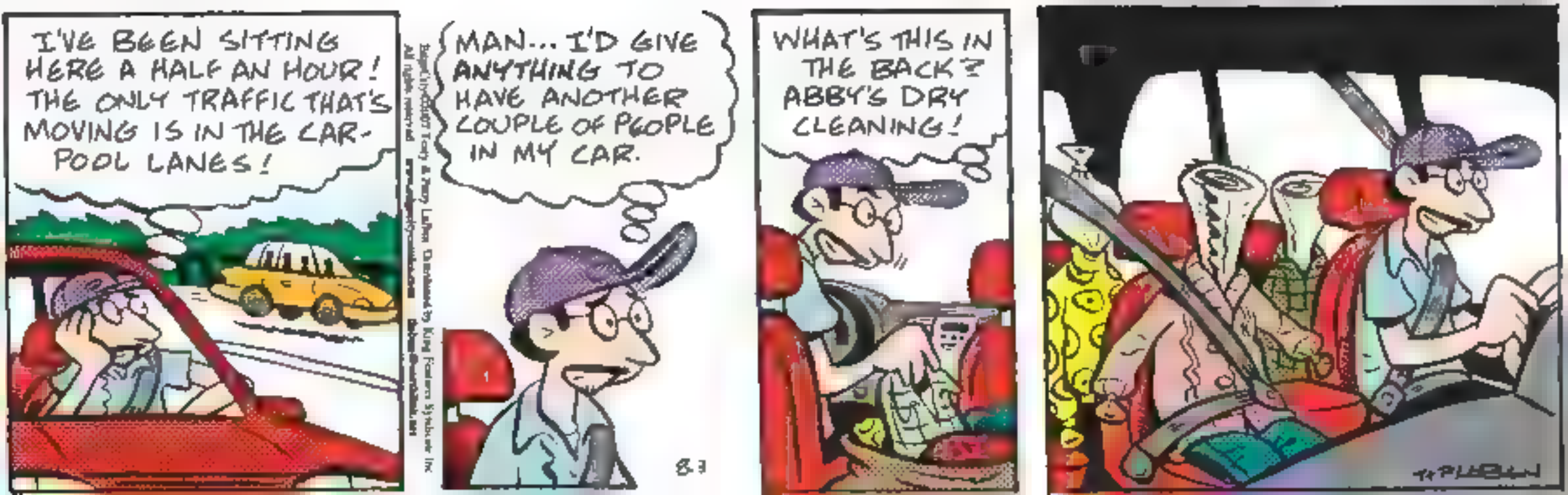

I'M GOING OUT OF MY WAY, BUT AT LEAST ON THESE RURAL ROADS, I CAN DRIVE FAST.

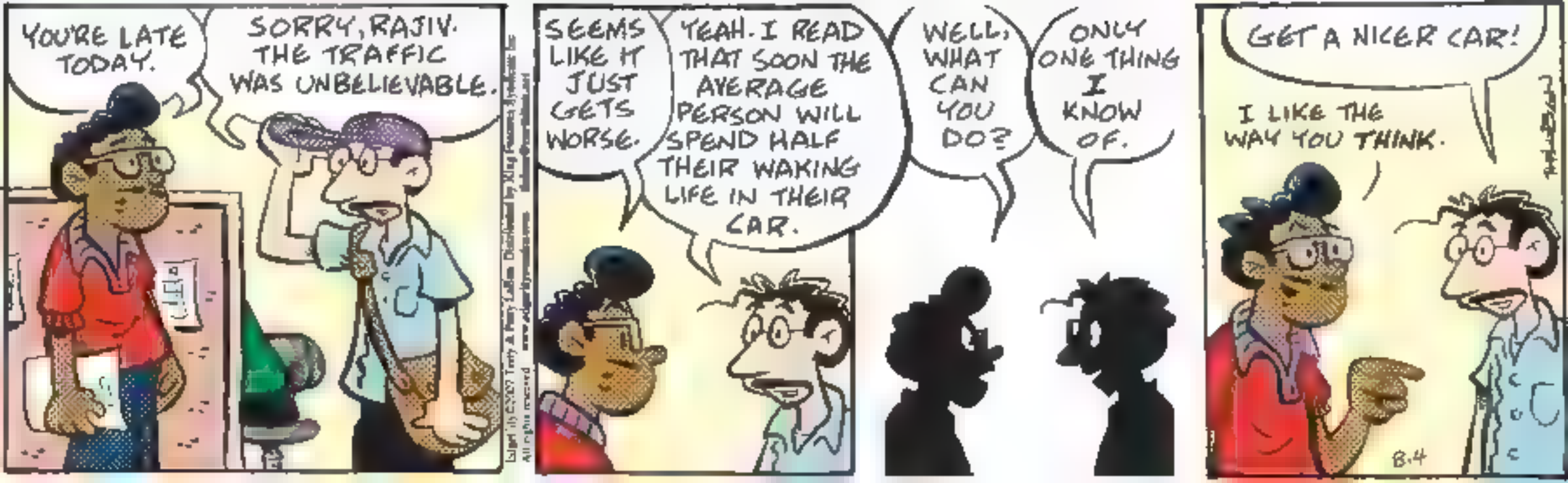

★@$#!

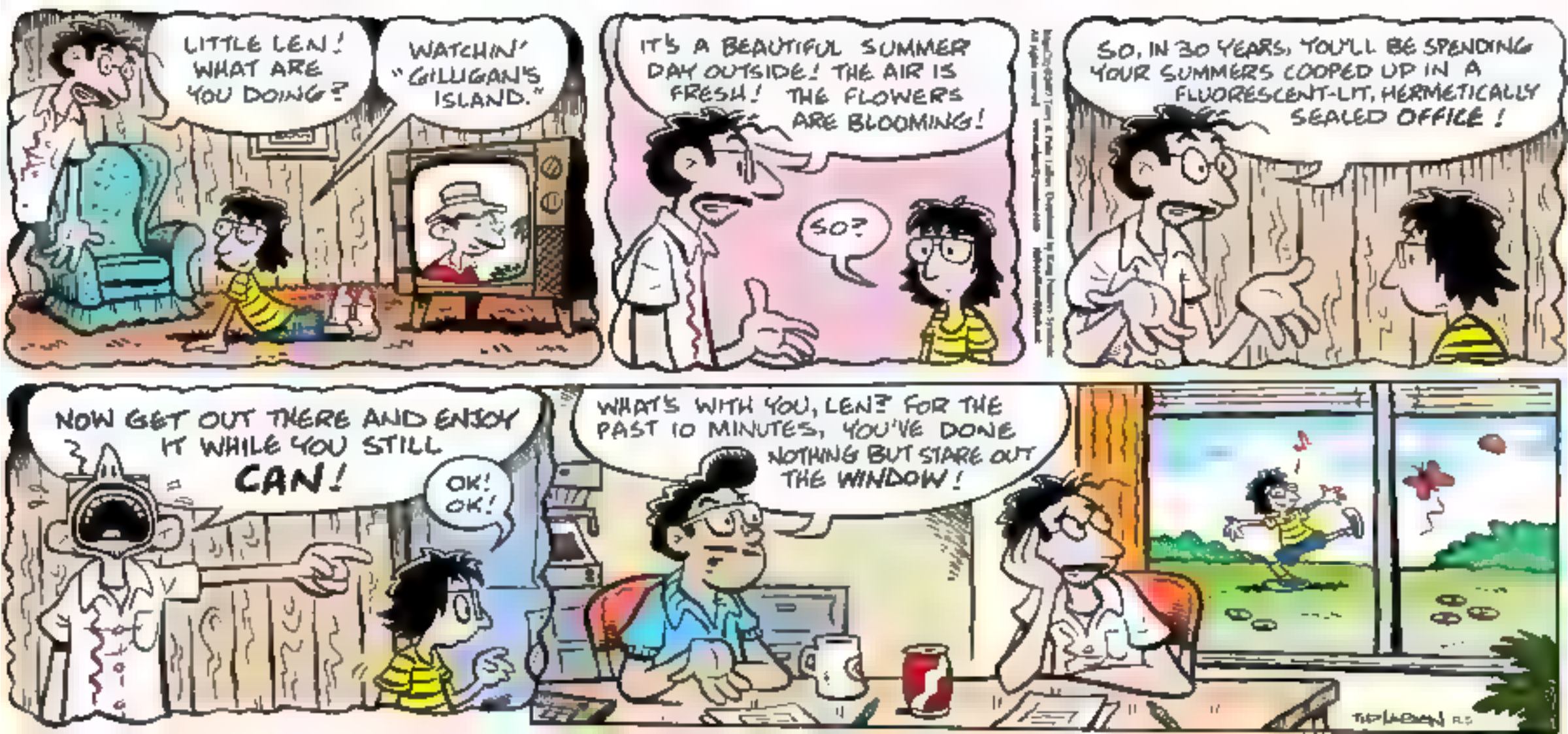
DRAT! I GOT OFF THE HIGHWAY BECAUSE OF THE TRAFFIC AND NOW I'M LOST!

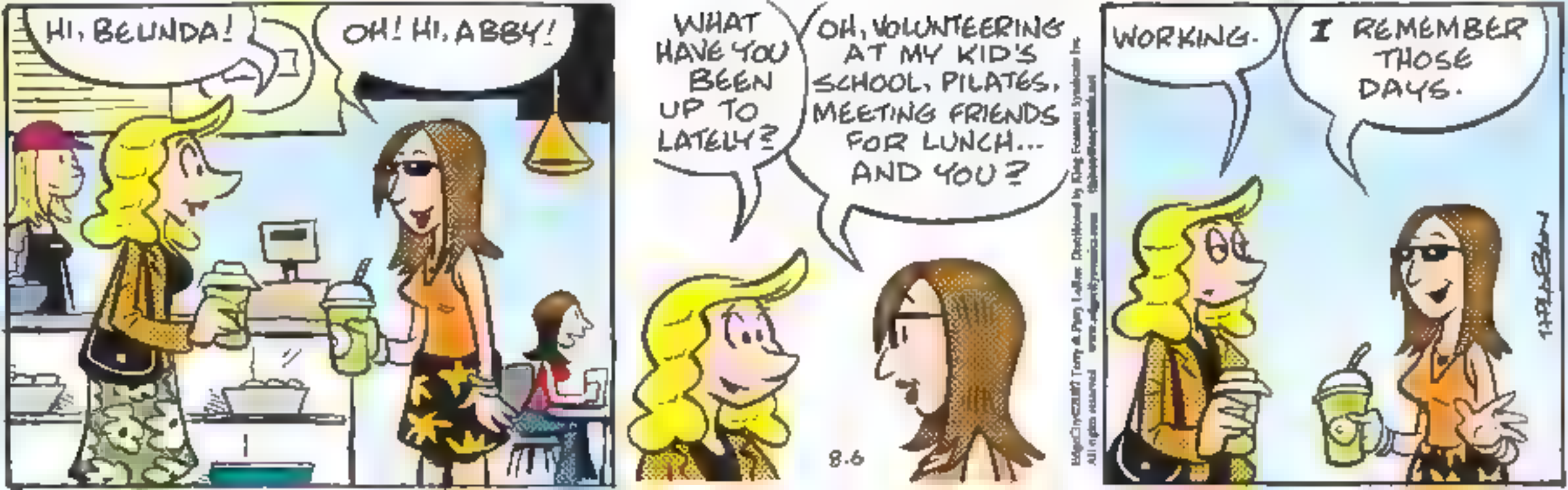
I'M ALREADY LATE FOR WORK! I'D BETTER FIGURE OUT WHERE I AM!

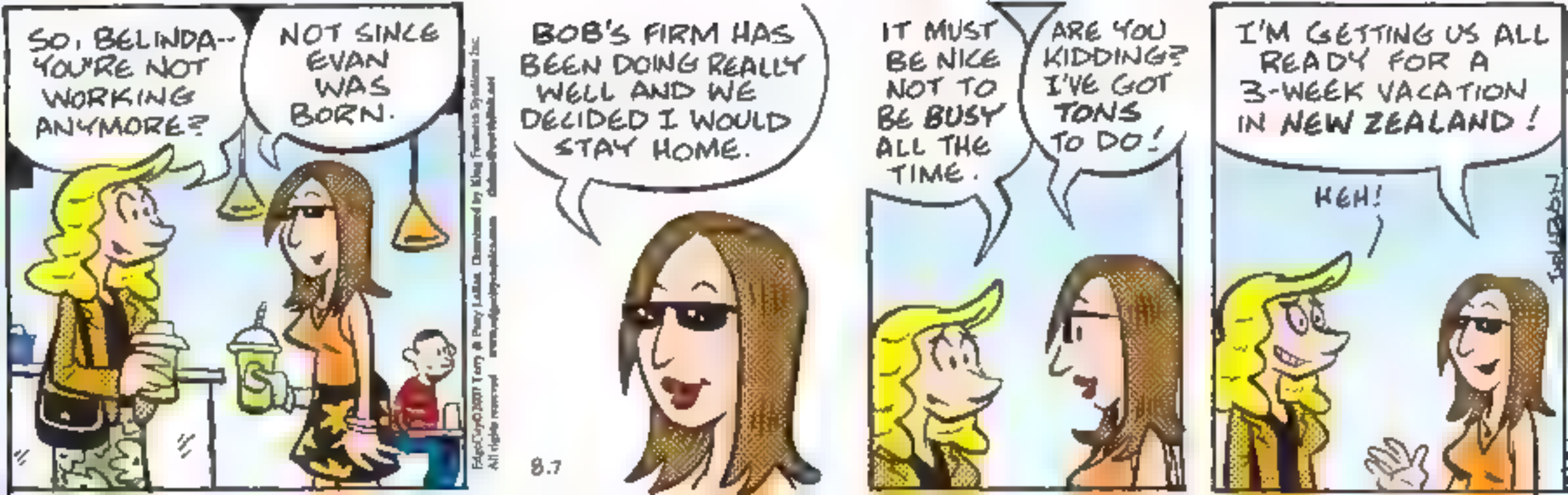

THIS IS BAD.
♫ WE REPRESENT THE LOLLIPOP GUILD... ♪

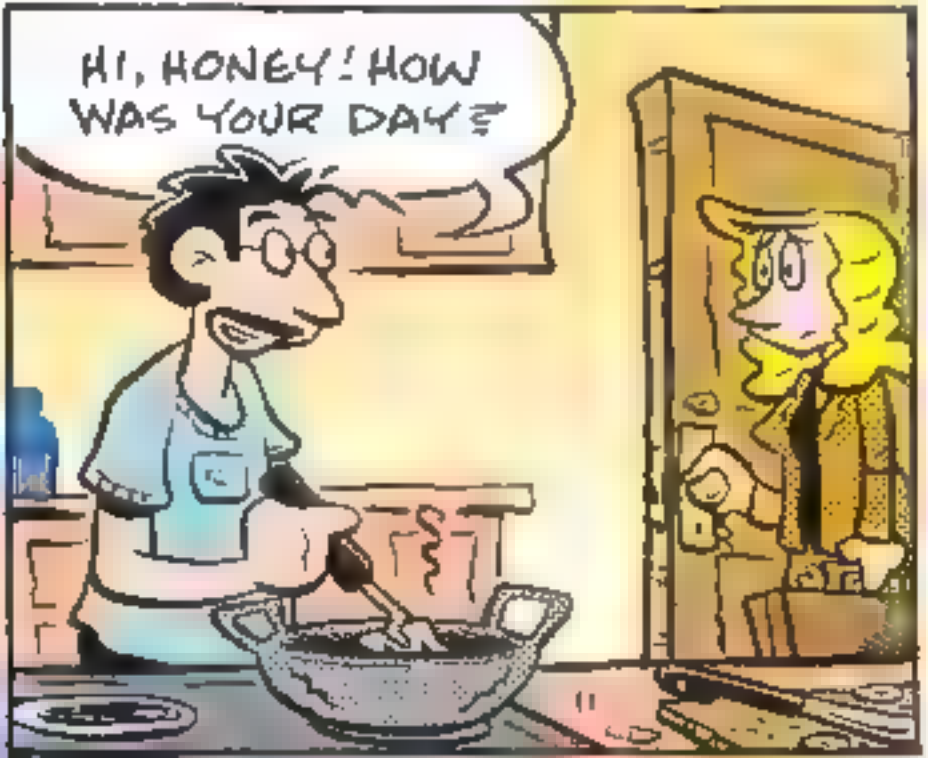

I'VE BEEN SITTING HERE A HALF AN HOUR! THE ONLY TRAFFIC THAT'S MOVING IS IN THE CAR-POOL LANES!
MAN... I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO HAVE ANOTHER COUPLE OF PEOPLE IN MY CAR.
WHAT'S THIS IN THE BACK? ABBY'S DRY CLEANING!


YOU'RE LATE TODAY.
SORRY, RAJIV. THE TRAFFIC WAS UNBELIEVABLE.
SEEMS LIKE IT JUST GETS WORSE.
YEAH. I READ THAT SOON THE AVERAGE PERSON WILL SPEND HALF THEIR WAKING LIFE IN THEIR CAR.
WELL, WHAT CAN YOU DO?
ONLY ONE THING I KNOW OF.
GET A NICER CAR!
I LIKE THE WAY YOU THINK.
B.4


LITTLE LEN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WATCHIN' "GILLIGAN'S ISLAND."
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL SUMMER DAY OUTSIDE! THE AIR IS FRESH! THE FLOWERS ARE BLOOMING!
SO?
SO, IN 30 YEARS, YOU'LL BE SPENDING YOUR SUMMERS COOPED UP IN A FLUORESCENT-LIT, HERMETICALLY SEALED OFFICE!
NOW GET OUT THERE AND ENJOY IT WHILE YOU STILL CAN!
OK! OK!
WHAT'S WITH YOU, LEN? FOR THE PAST 10 MINUTES, YOU'VE DONE NOTHING BUT STARE OUT THE WINDOW!

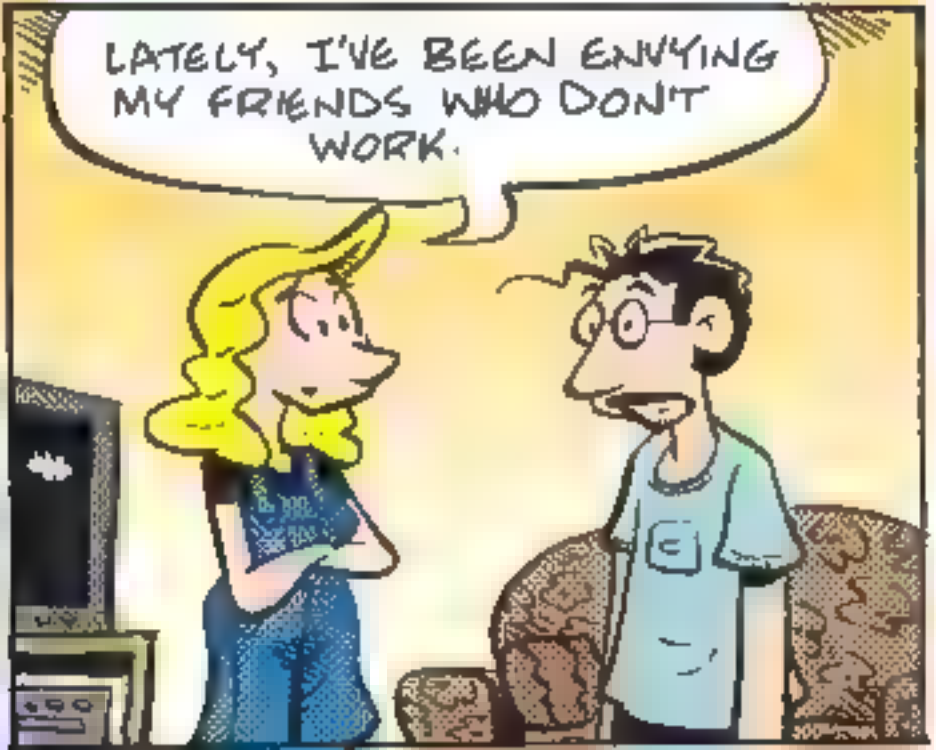

HI, BELINDA!
OH! HI, ABBY!
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO LATELY?
OH, VOLUNTEERING AT MY KID'S SCHOOL, PILATES, MEETING FRIENDS FOR LUNCH... AND YOU?
8-6
WORKING.
I REMEMBER THOSE DAYS.


SO, BELINDA-- YOU'RE NOT WORKING ANYMORE?
NOT SINCE EVAN WAS BORN.
BOB'S FIRM HAS BEEN DOING REALLY WELL AND WE DECIDED I WOULD STAY HOME.
IT MUST BE NICE NOT TO BE BUSY ALL THE TIME.
ARE YOU KIDDING? I'VE GOT TONS TO DO!
I'M GETTING US ALL READY FOR A 3-WEEK VACATION IN NEW ZEALAND!
HEH!


HI, HONEY! HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SIGH!

SOMETIMES I WISH YOU MADE MORE MONEY.
ONE OF THOSE, HUH?
8.8



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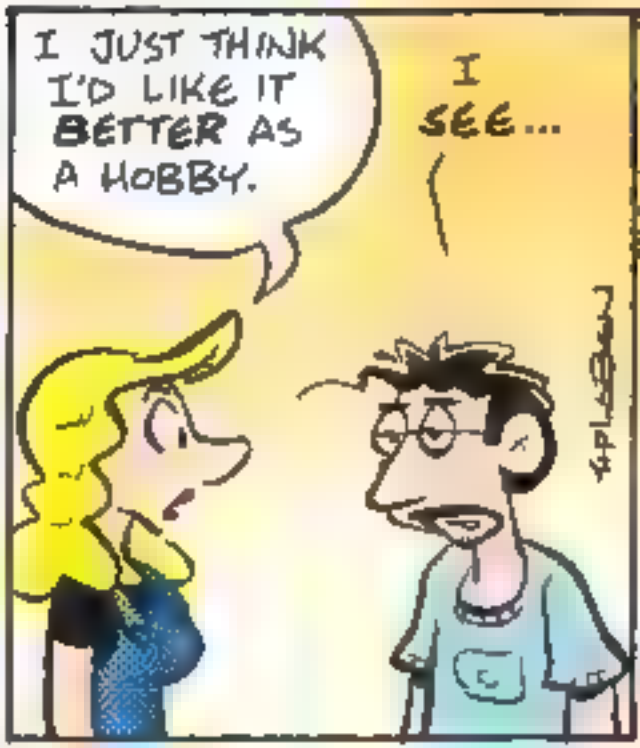

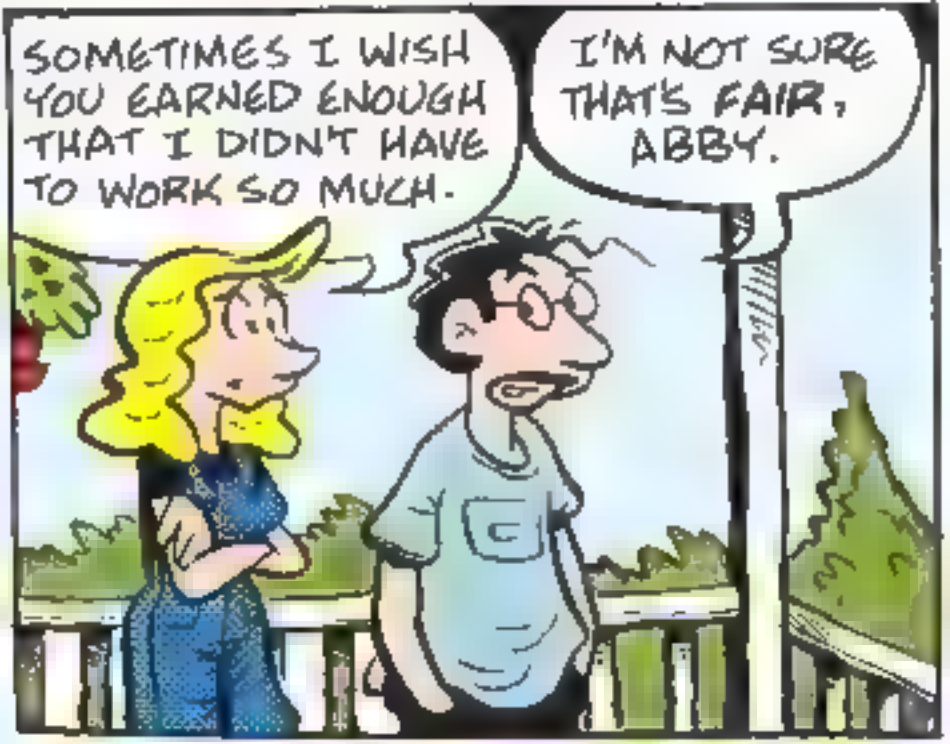

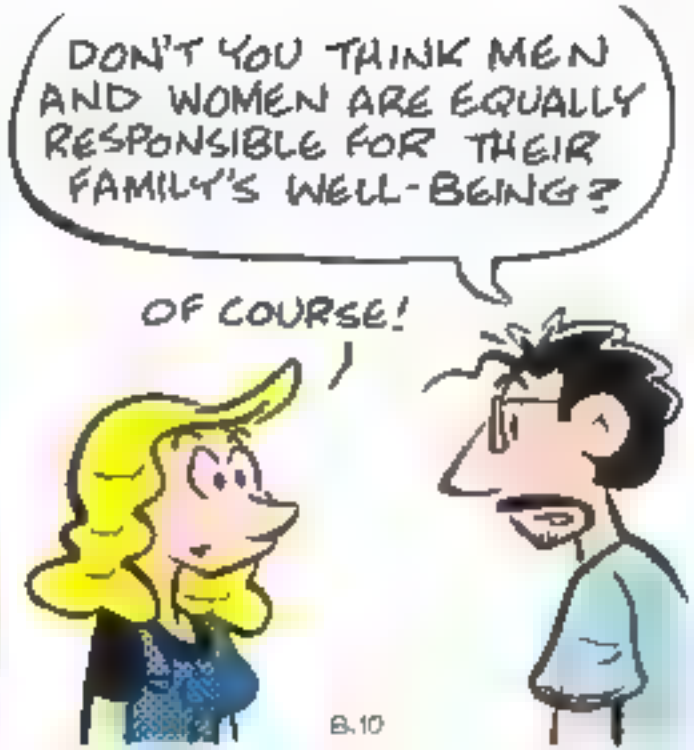

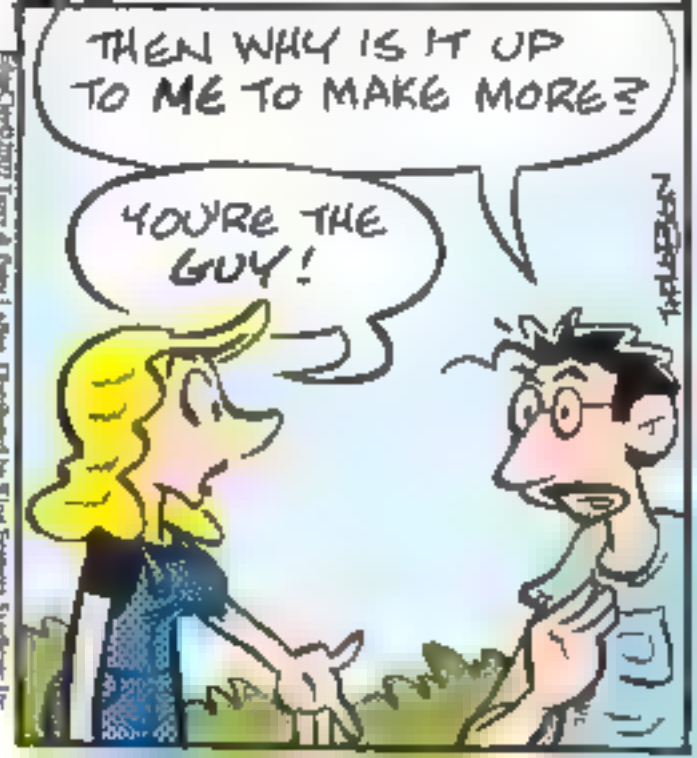

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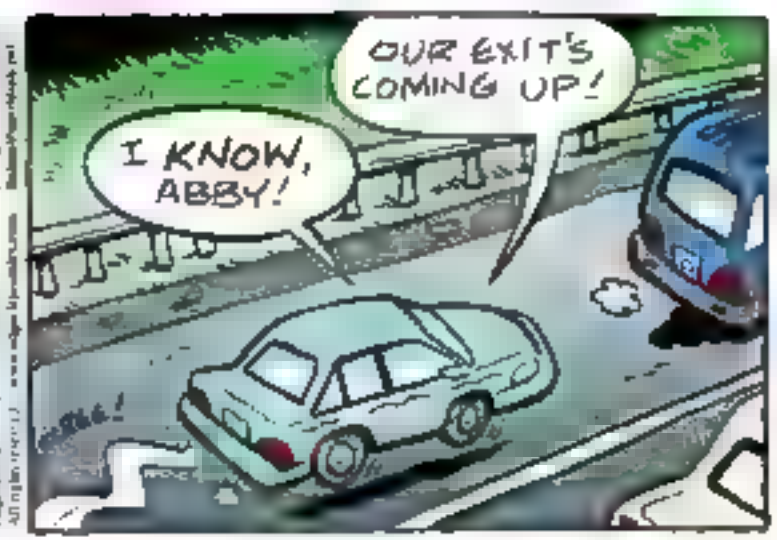
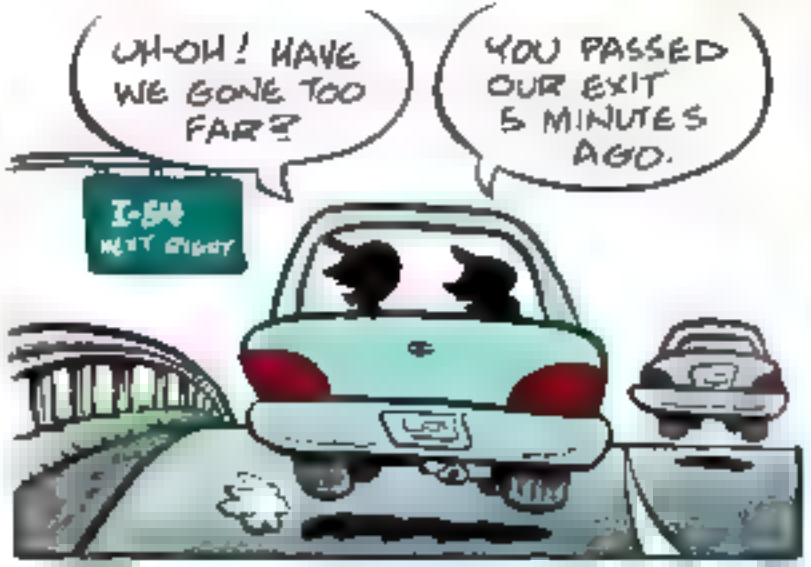
SOMETIMES I WISH YOU MADE MORE MONEY, LEN.
SO DO I.
BUT I HAVE A BUSINESS I'VE BUILT UP FOR YEARS. I'M MY OWN BOSS AND I HAVE A GREAT BUSINESS PARTNER.
B.11
I KNOW I'M NOT GETTING RICH. BUT WE PAY OUR BILLS AND IT'S A JOB I LIKE.
WHAT IF YOU LIKED A JOB THAT DID MAKE YOU RICH?
THAT'S A HYPOTHETICAL!

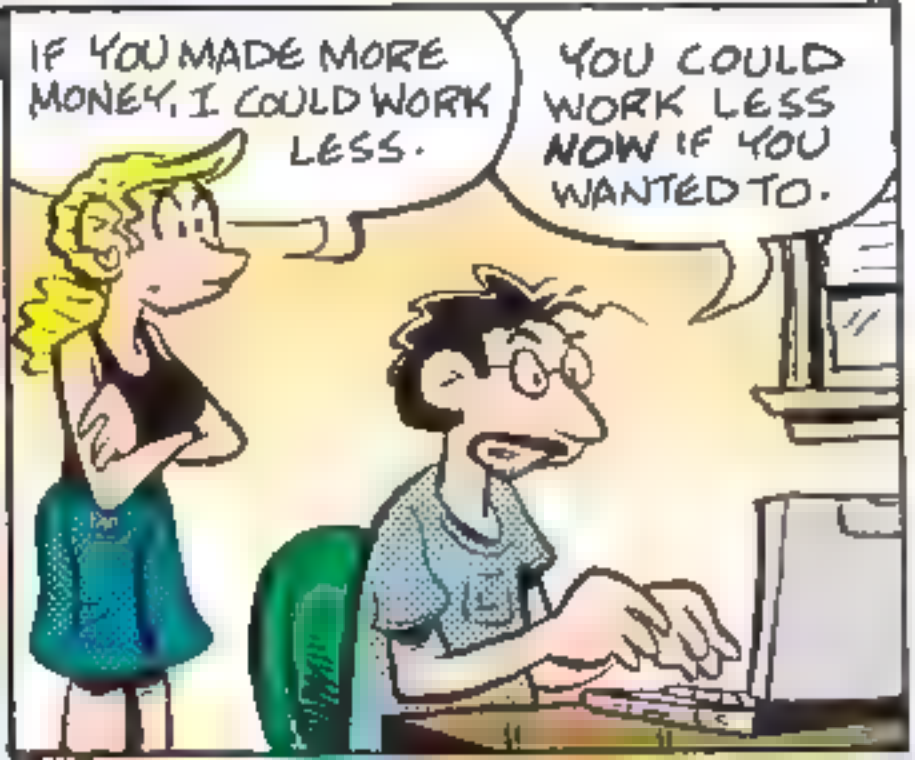
LEN! GET OVER IN THE RIGHT LANE!
HUH?


OUR EXIT'S COMING UP!
I KNOW, ABBY!

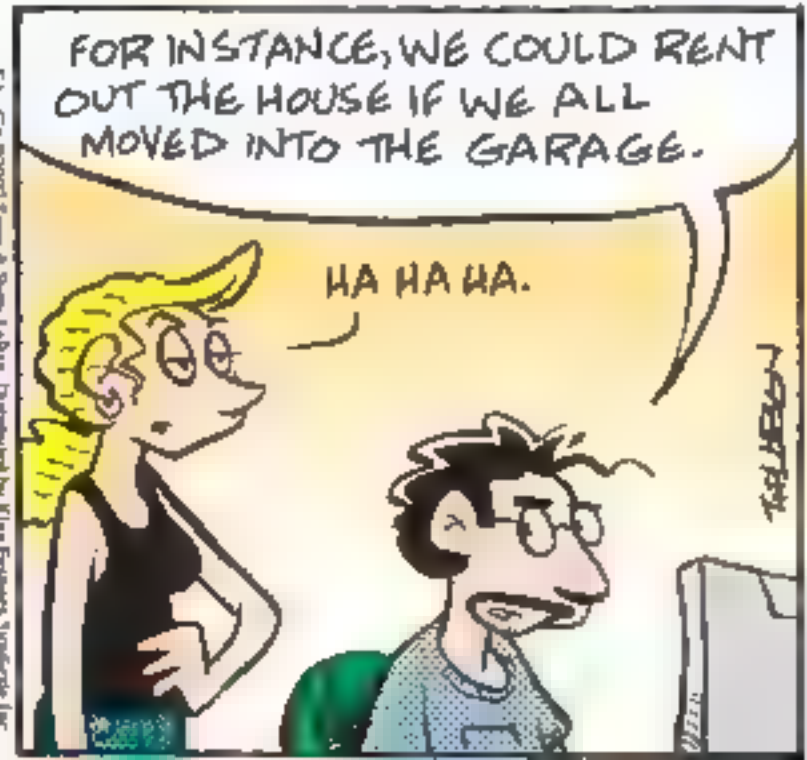
YOUR BACKSEAT DRIVING IS GOING TO GET US IN AN ACCIDENT! DO ME A FAVOR AND KEEP QUIET, ALL RIGHT?
OK! OK!

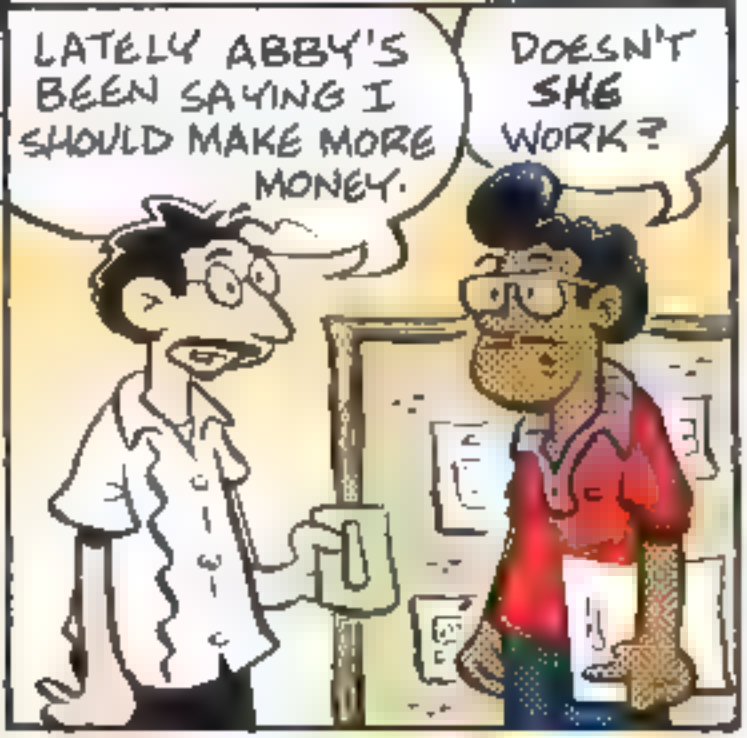

UH-OH! HAVE WE GONE TOO FAR?
YOU PASSED OUR EXIT 5 MINUTES AGO.
I-84
NEXT EXIT

I DID? WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING?!


IF YOU MADE MORE MONEY, I COULD WORK LESS.
YOU COULD WORK LESS NOW IF YOU WANTED TO.

WE COULD LIVE ON WHAT I MAKE. WE'D JUST HAVE TO DOWNSIZE A LITTLE.
8.13


FOR INSTANCE, WE COULD RENT OUT THE HOUSE IF WE ALL MOVED INTO THE GARAGE.
HA HA HA.



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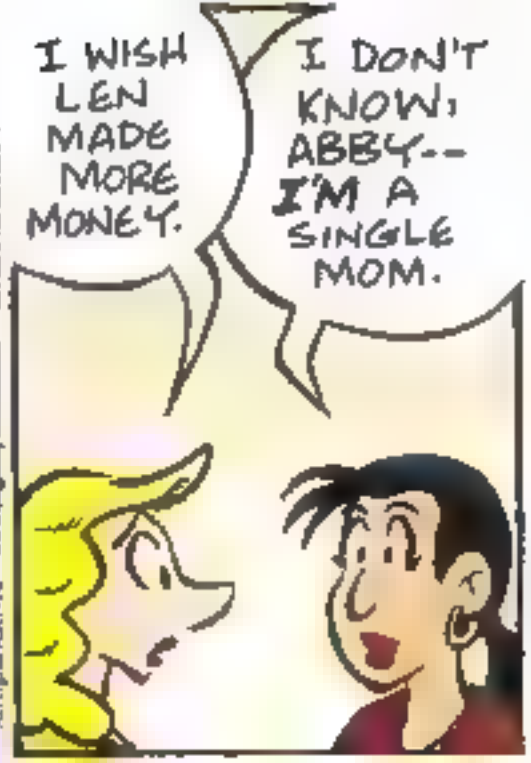
MAYBE ABBY'S RIGHT. MAYBE I SHOULD BE MAKING MORE MONEY.
I SHOULD TAKE A LOOK AT THE JOB LISTINGS. THERE ARE SOME OTHER CAREERS I'VE BEEN INTERESTED IN.
8-15
LET'S SEE WHAT THEY HAVE UNDER "DOT-COM MILLIONAIRES"...



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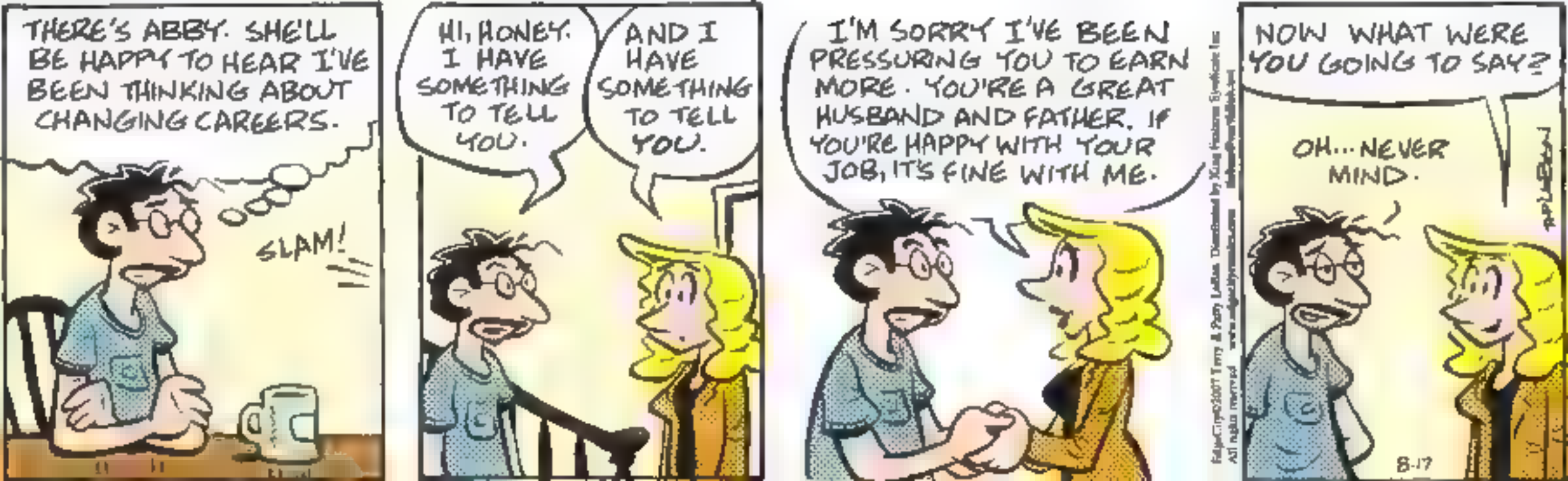
THERE'S ABBY. SHE'LL BE HAPPY TO HEAR I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT CHANGING CAREERS.
SLAM!
HI, HONEY. I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU.
AND I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU.
I'M SORRY I'VE BEEN PRESSURING YOU TO EARN MORE. YOU'RE A GREAT HUSBAND AND FATHER. IF YOU'RE HAPPY WITH YOUR JOB, IT'S FINE WITH ME.
NOW WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO SAY?
OH... NEVER MIND.
8-17

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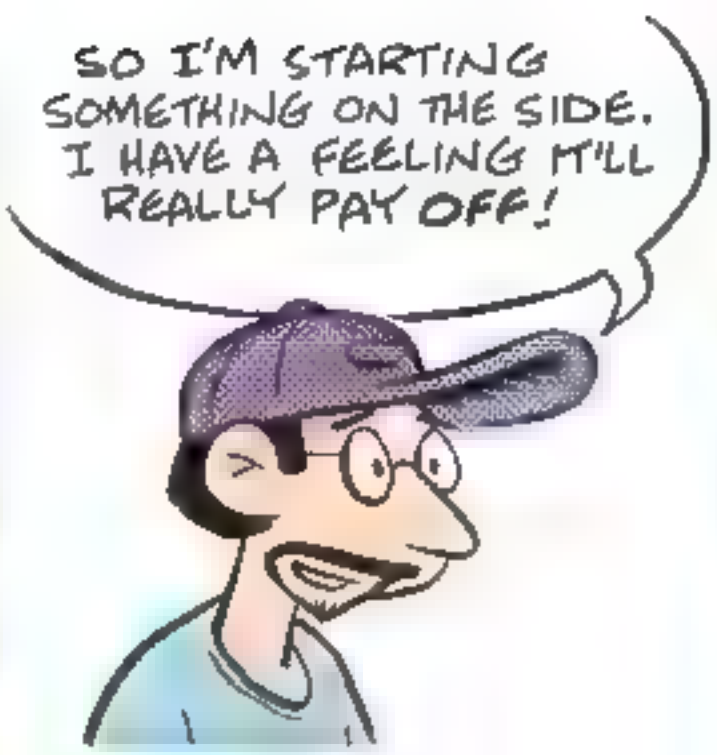
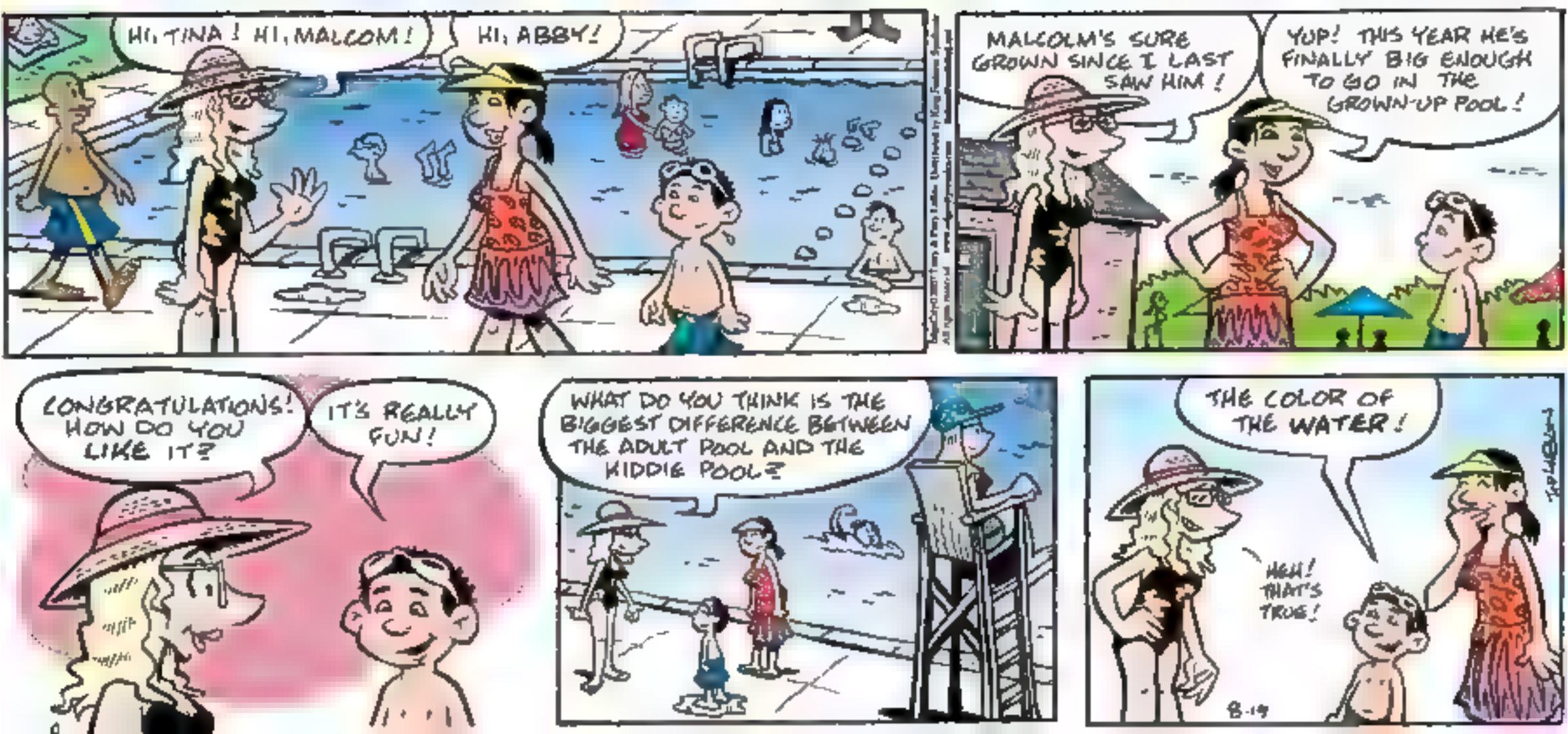
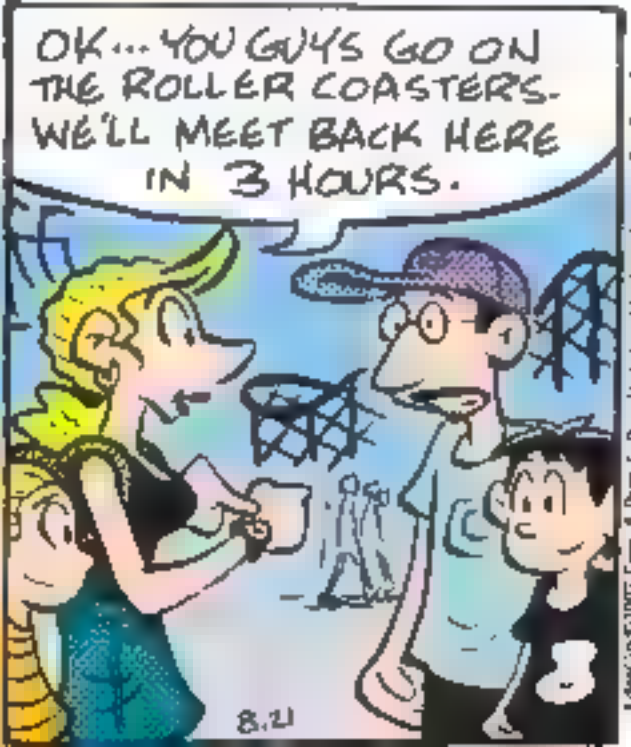
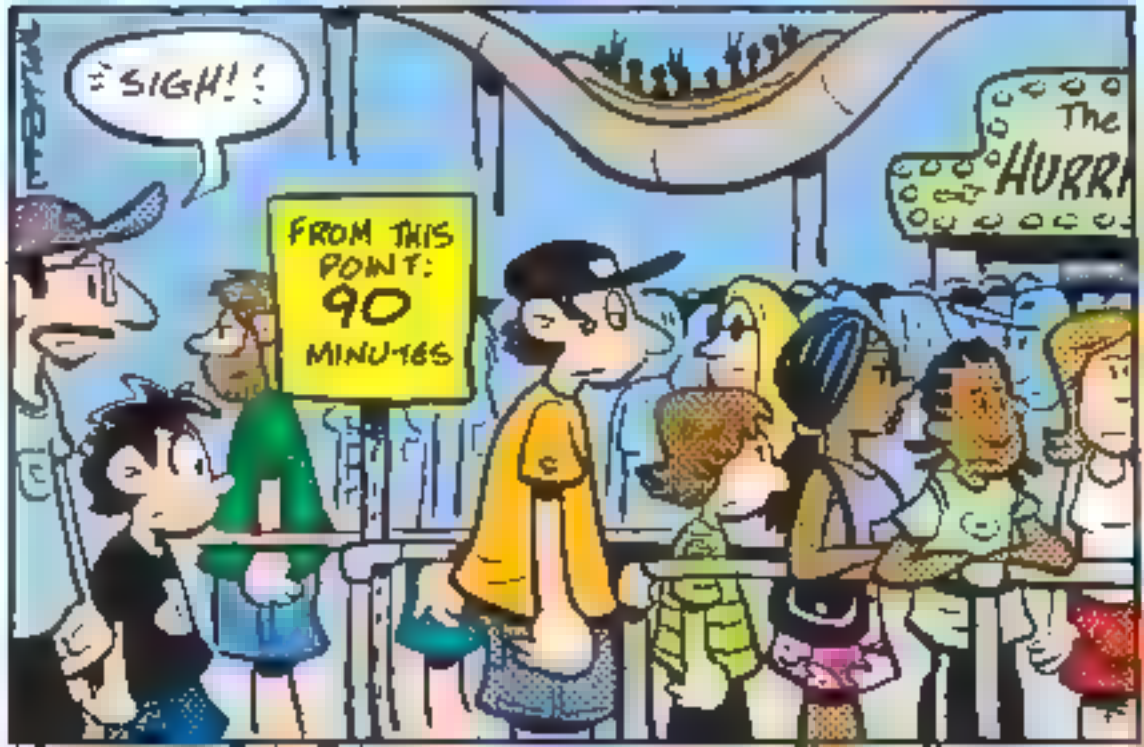


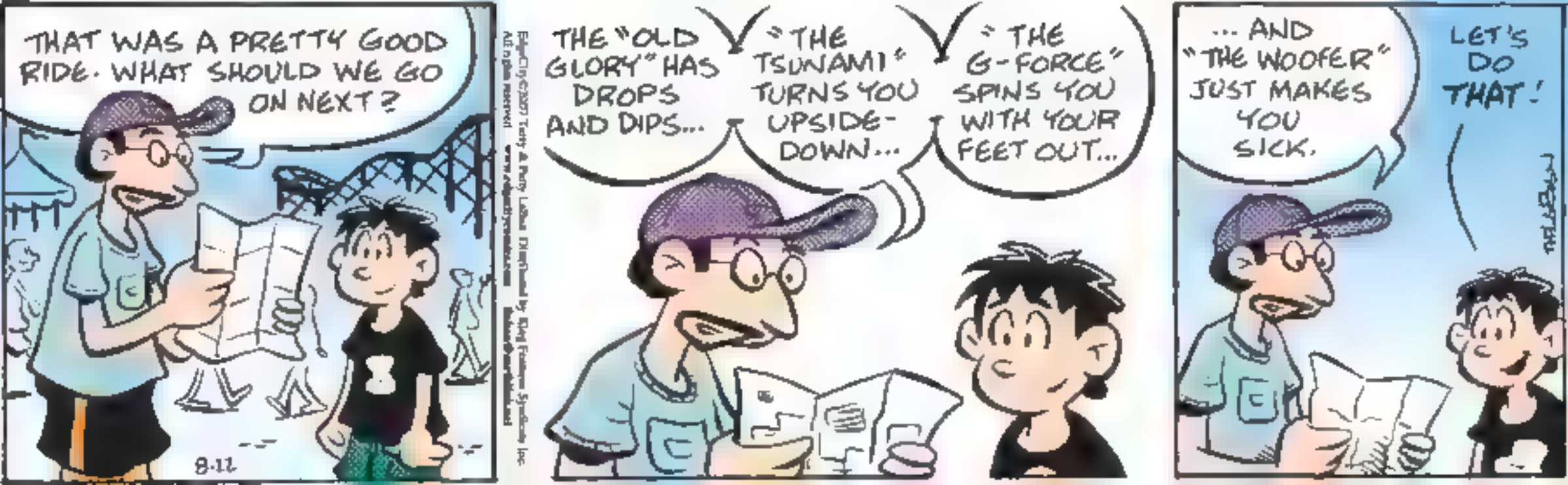

HI, TINA! HI, MALCOM!
HI, ABBY!
MALCOLM'S SURE GROWN SINCE I LAST SAW HIM!
YUP! THIS YEAR HE'S FINALLY BIG ENOUGH TO GO IN THE GROWN-UP POOL!
CONGRATULATIONS! HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?
IT'S REALLY FUN!
WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ADULT POOL AND THE KIDDIE POOL?
THE COLOR OF THE WATER!
HEH! THAT'S TRUE!
8-19

MAN, IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK AT 10 FLAGS! COLIN AND I CAN'T WAIT TO GET ON THE ROLLER COASTERS!
Shoot
SURE YOU AND CARLY DON'T WANT TO TRY ONE?
WE'LL JUST STICK TO THE MERRY-GO-ROUND AND THE PUTT-PUTT BOATS.
WHY DOESN'T MOM LIKE ROLLER COASTERS?
SHE SAYS THAT IF SHE WANTS TO FEEL LIKE SHE'S HURTLING INTO THE VOID, SHE CAN JUST GO OVER OUR CREDIT CARD BILLS.
8-20
THE LARSON


OK... YOU GUYS GO ON THE ROLLER COASTERS. WE'LL MEET BACK HERE IN 3 HOURS.
8.21

C'MON, COLIN! NOW WE'RE GONNA HAVE SOME REAL FUN!


SIGH!
FROM THIS POINT: 90 MINUTES
The HURR



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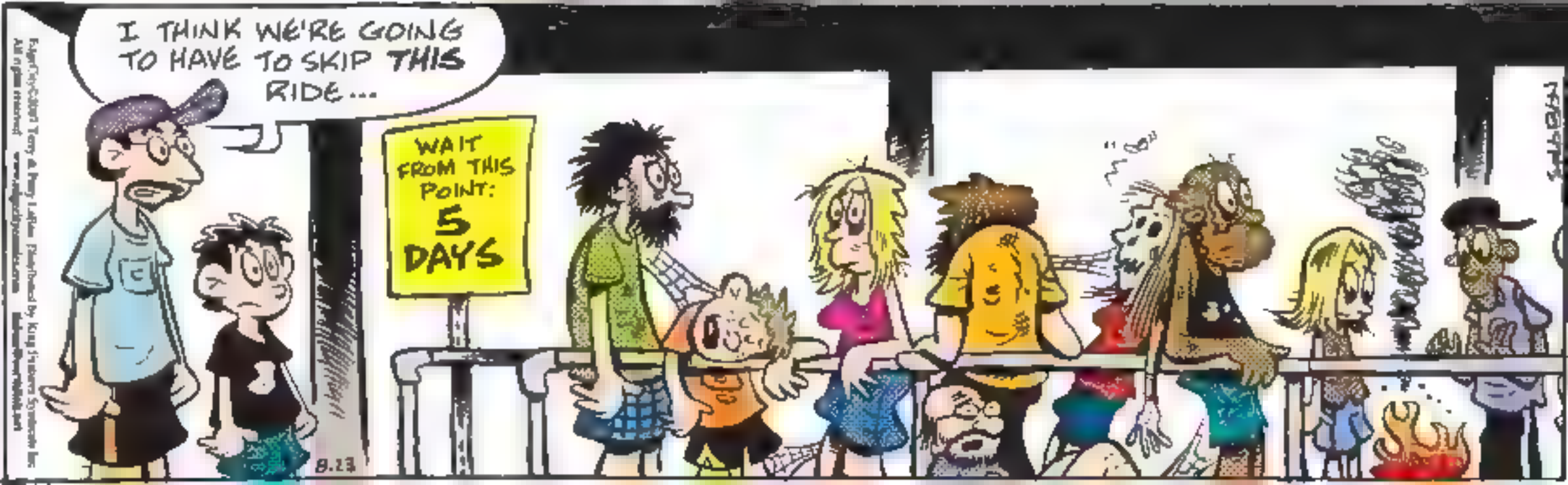
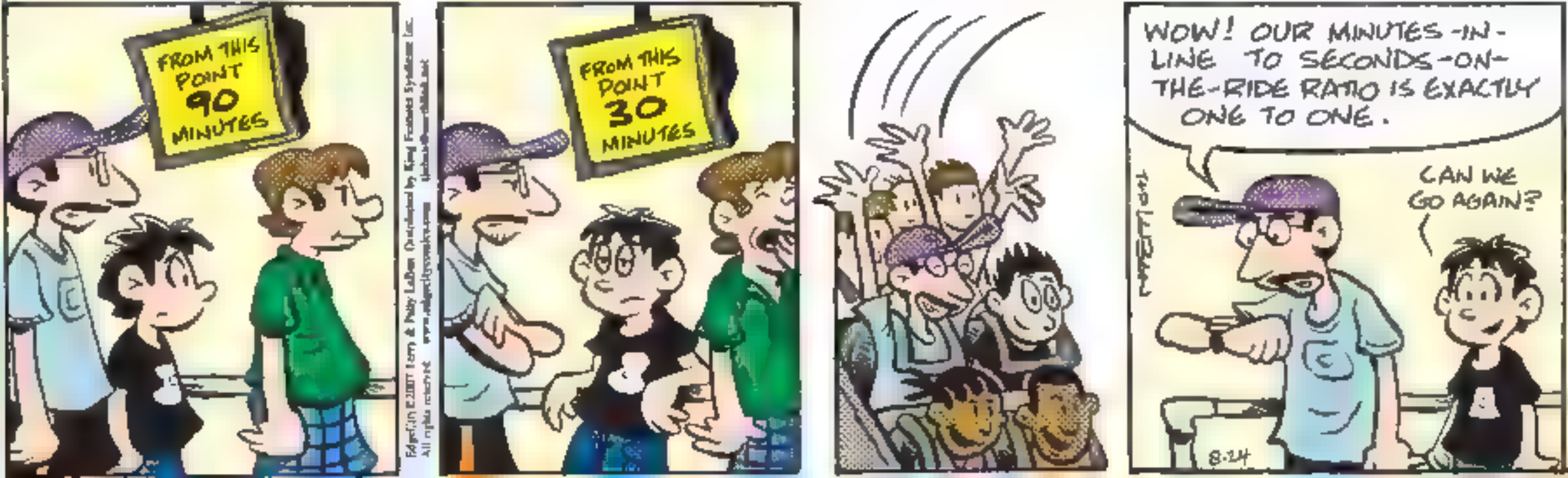
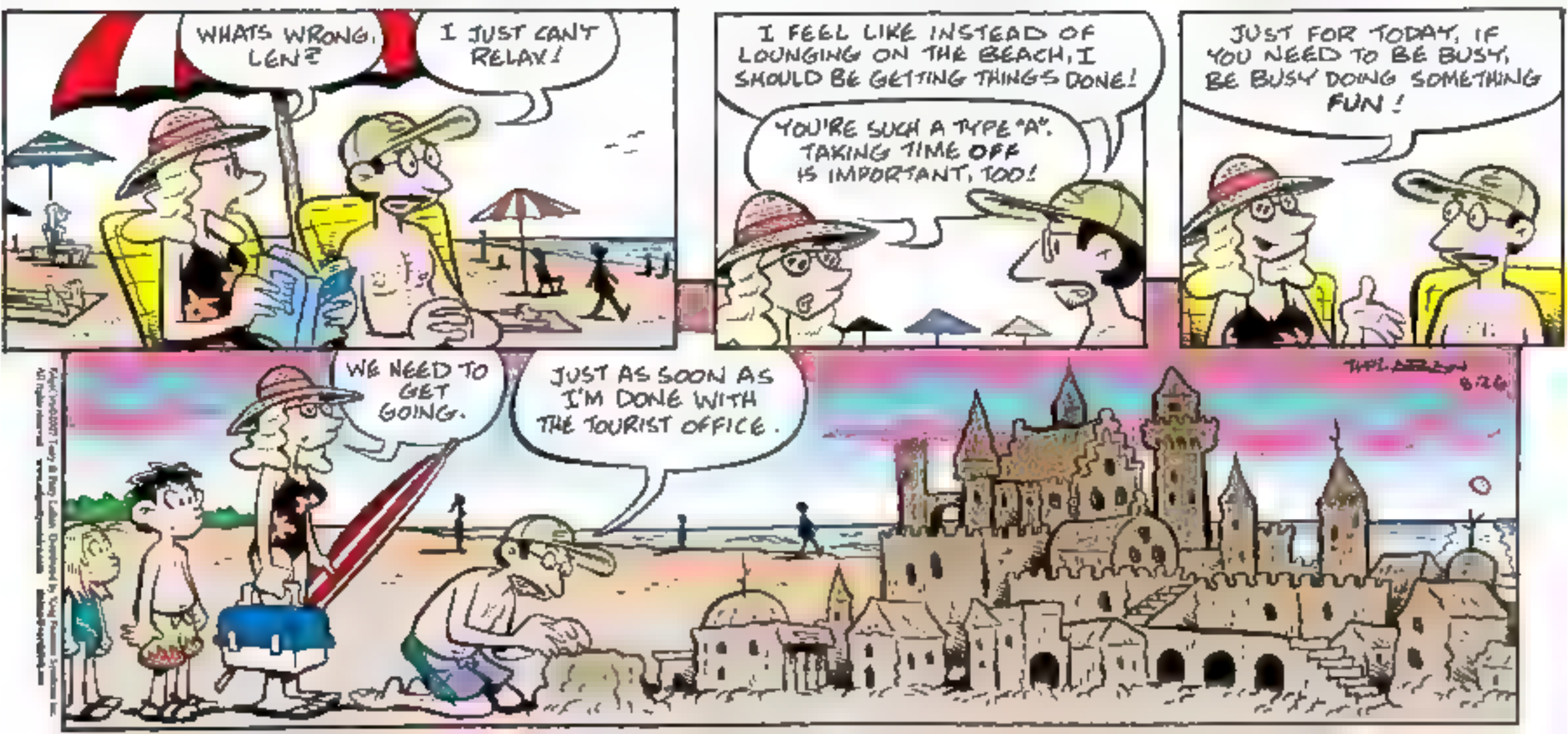
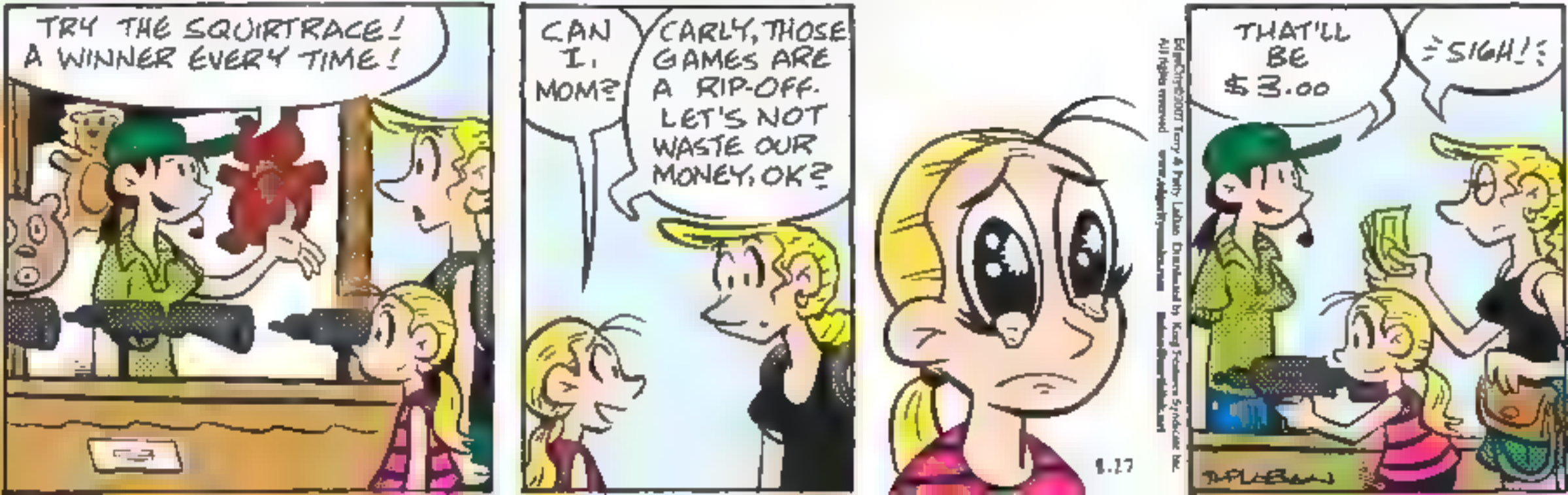
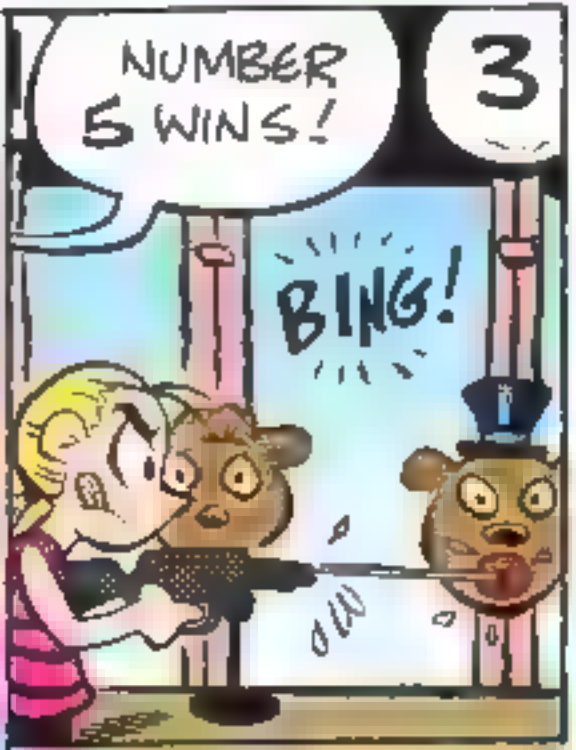

I THINK WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SKIP THIS RIDE...
WAIT FROM THIS POINT: 5 DAYS
8.23


FROM THIS POINT 90 MINUTES
FROM THIS POINT 30 MINUTES
WOW! OUR MINUTES-IN-LINE TO SECONDS-ON-THE-RIDE RATIO IS EXACTLY ONE TO ONE.
CAN WE GO AGAIN?
8-24

HI, LEN! HI, COLIN! HOW WERE THE ROLLER COASTERS?
ALL RIGHT.
JUST ALL RIGHT?
WELL, EVEN THE WILDEST ONES WERE OVER PRETTY FAST.
8.25
BUT THE LINES WERE AMAZING!
TWO HOURS TO GET ON "THE BLENDER"! WOW!


WHATS WRONG, LEN?
I JUST CAN'T RELAX!
I FEEL LIKE INSTEAD OF LOUNGING ON THE BEACH, I SHOULD BE GETTING THINGS DONE!
YOU'RE SUCH A TYPE "A". TAKING TIME OFF IS IMPORTANT, TOO!
JUST FOR TODAY, IF YOU NEED TO BE BUSY, BE BUSY DOING SOMETHING FUN!
WE NEED TO GET GOING.
JUST AS SOON AS I'M DONE WITH THE TOURIST OFFICE.


TRY THE SQUIRTRACE! A WINNER EVERY TIME!
CAN I, MOM?
CARLY, THOSE GAMES ARE A RIP-OFF. LET'S NOT WASTE OUR MONEY, OK?
8.27
THAT'LL BE $3.00
SIGH!



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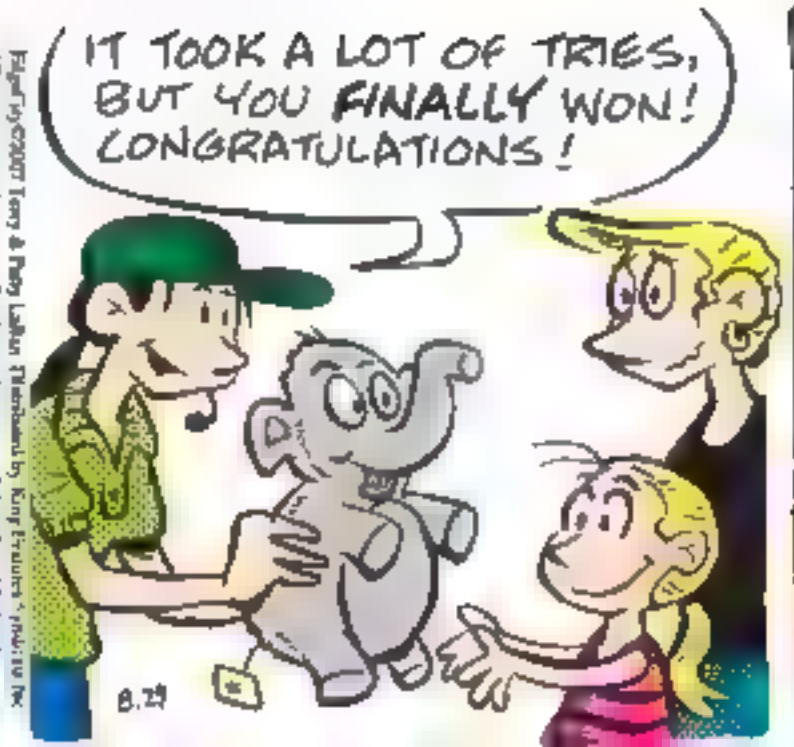
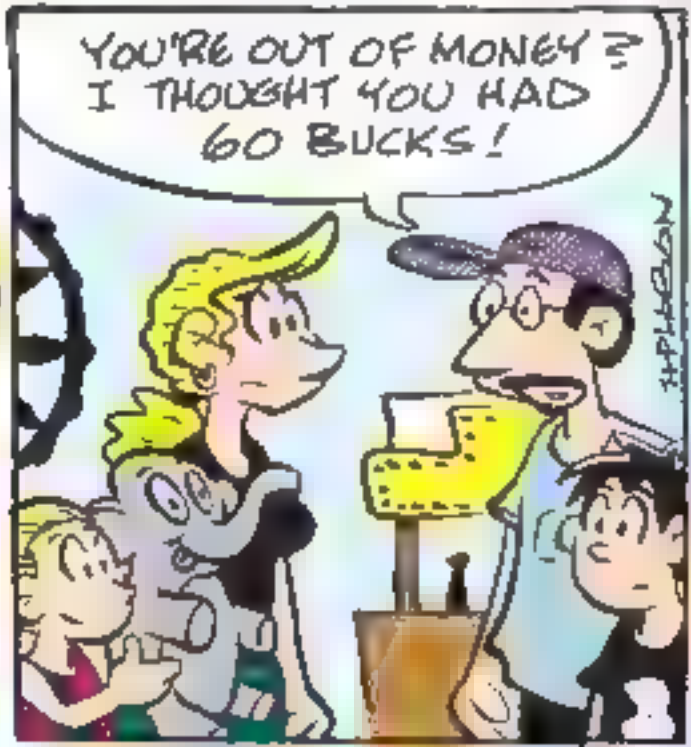
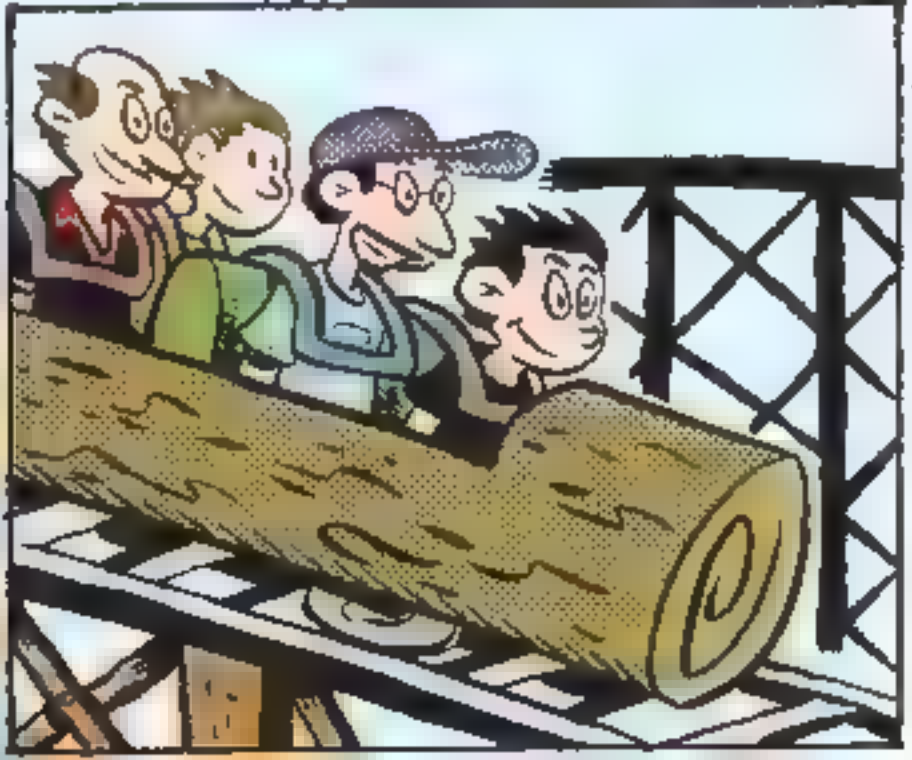
NUMBER 3 IS THE WINNER!
3
BING!


IT TOOK A LOT OF TRIES, BUT YOU FINALLY WON! CONGRATULATIONS!


YOU'RE OUT OF MONEY? I THOUGHT YOU HAD 60 BUCKS!



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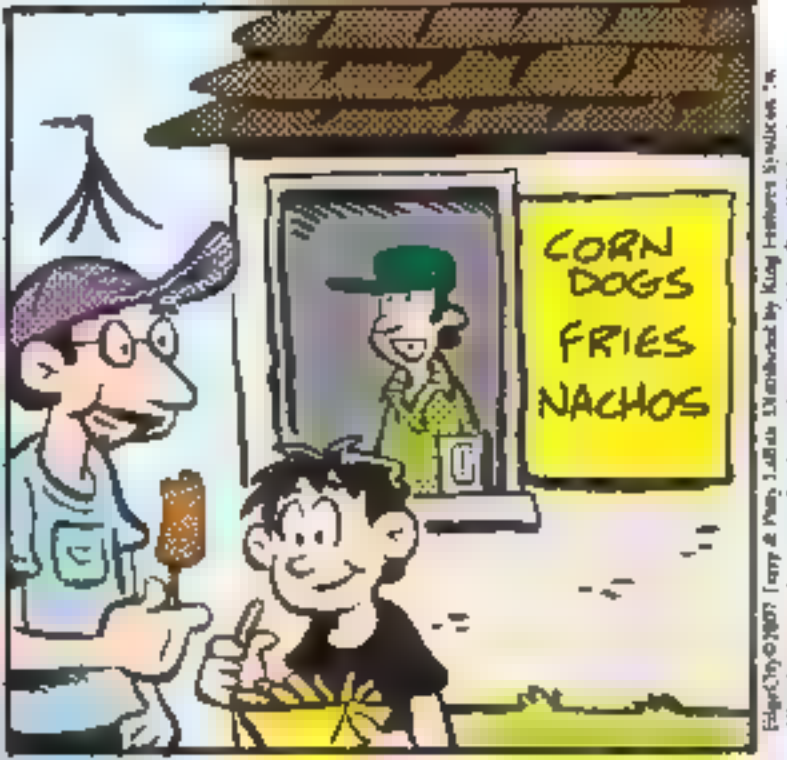
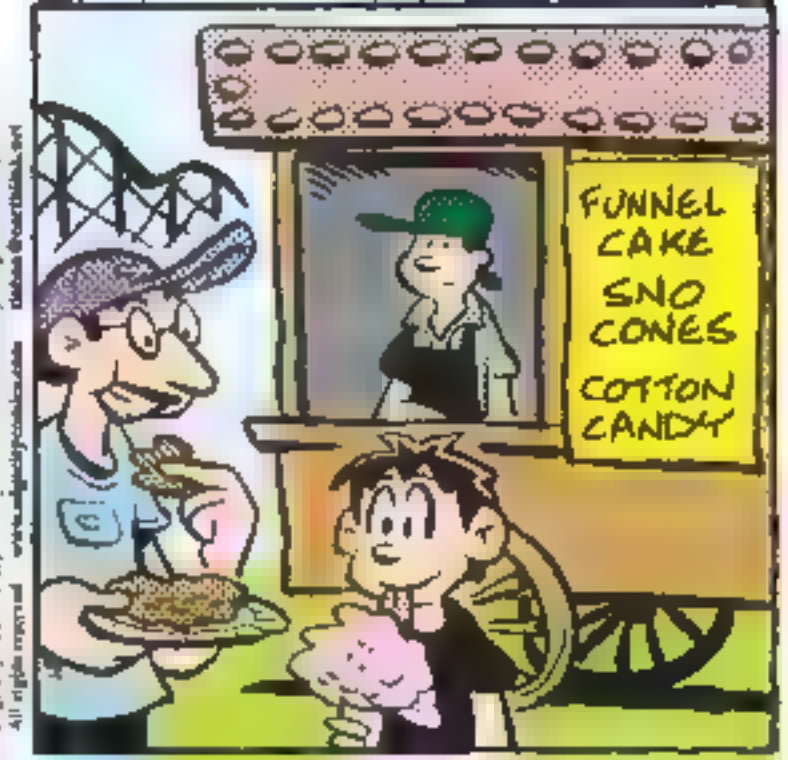
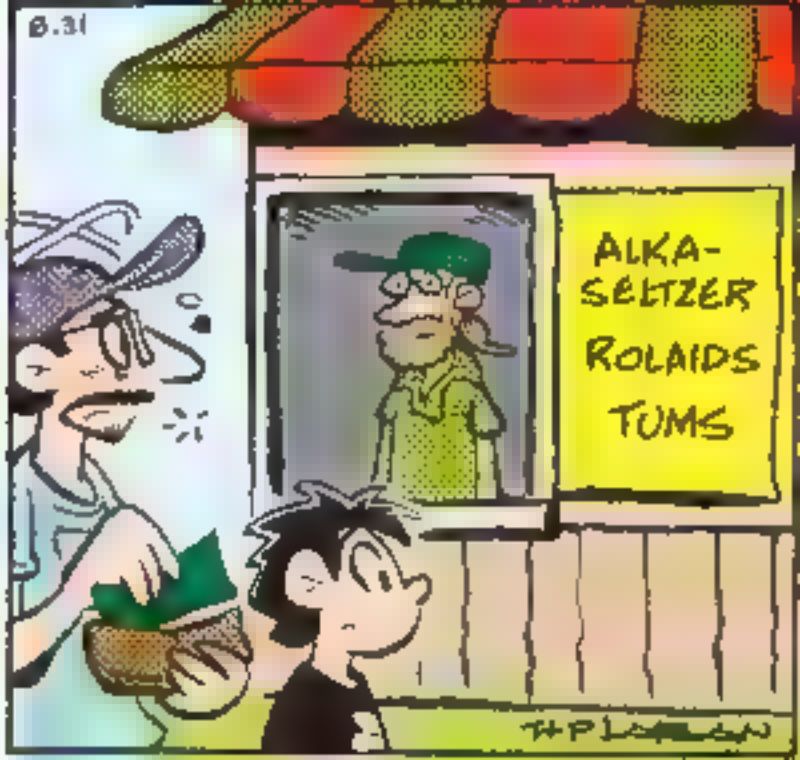
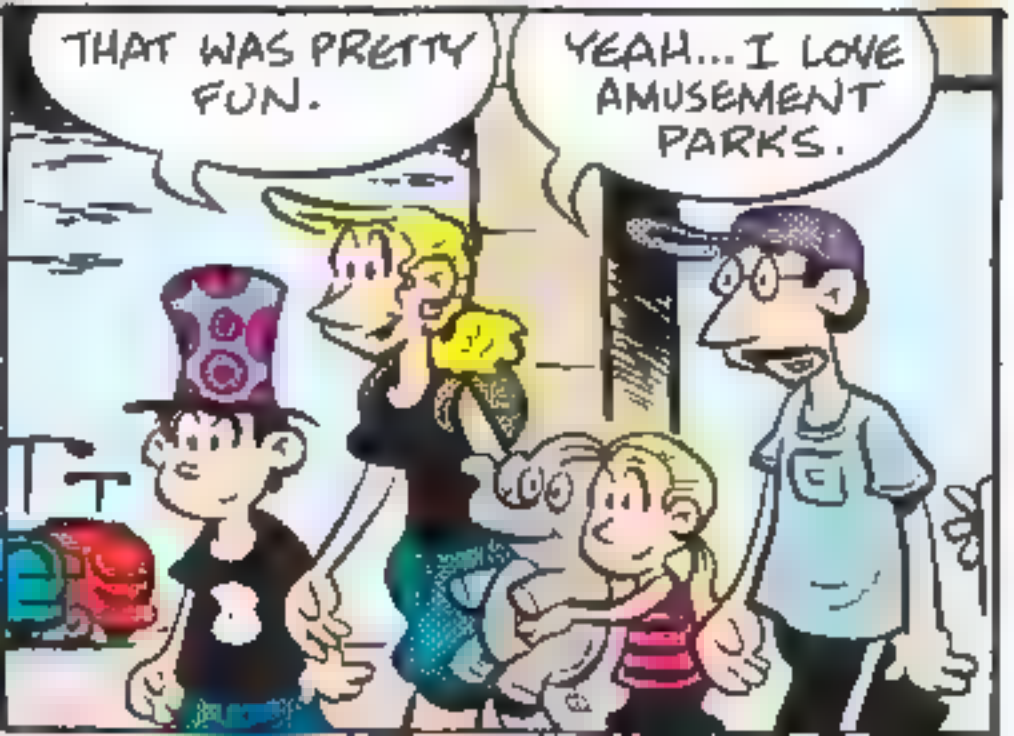

CORN DOGS
FRIES
NACHOS


FUNNEL CAKE
SNO CONES
COTTON CANDY


8.31
ALKA-SELTZER
ROLAIDS
TUMS



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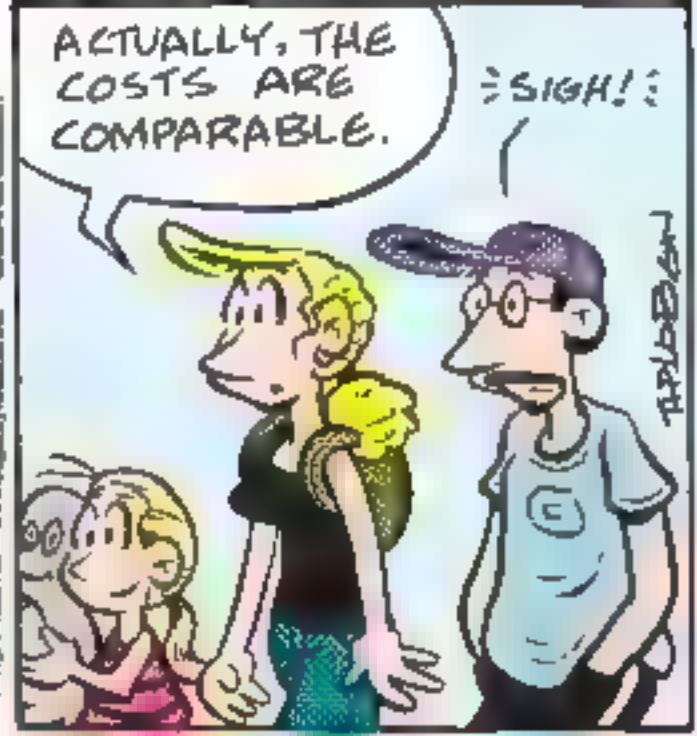
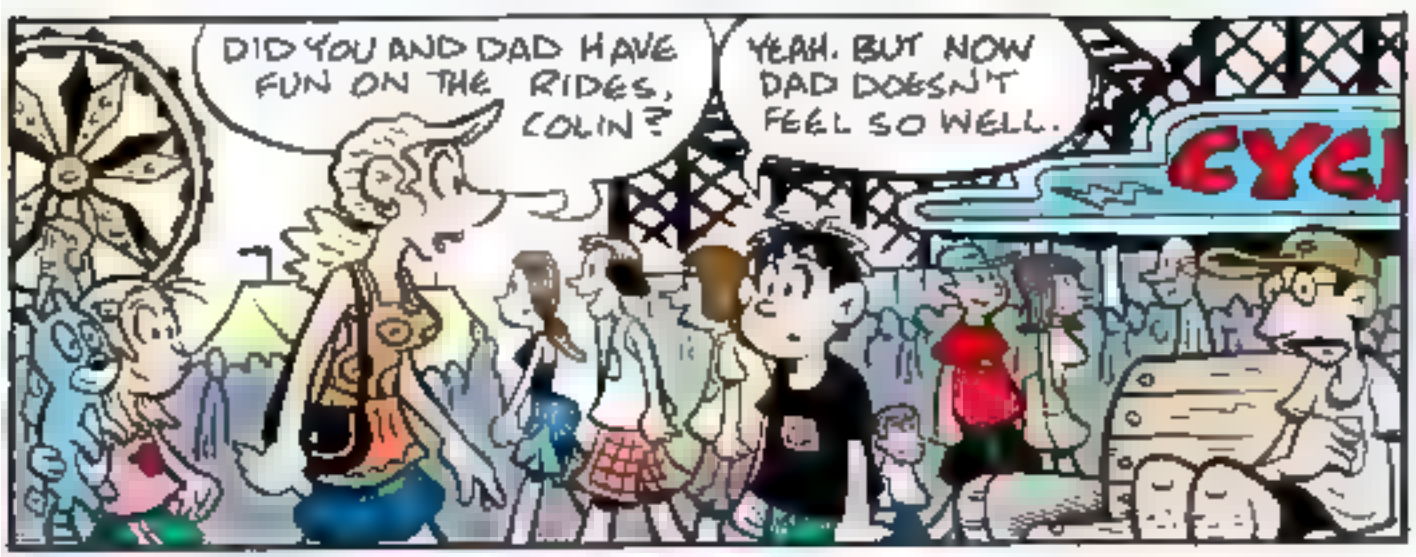
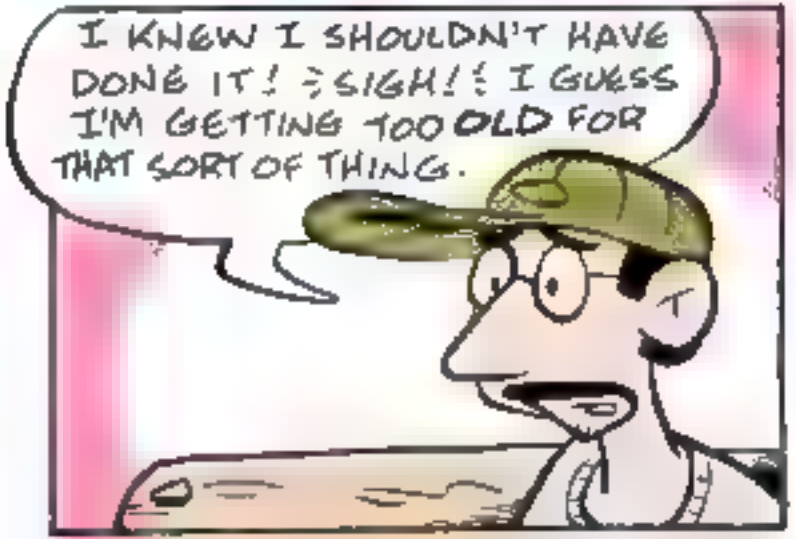


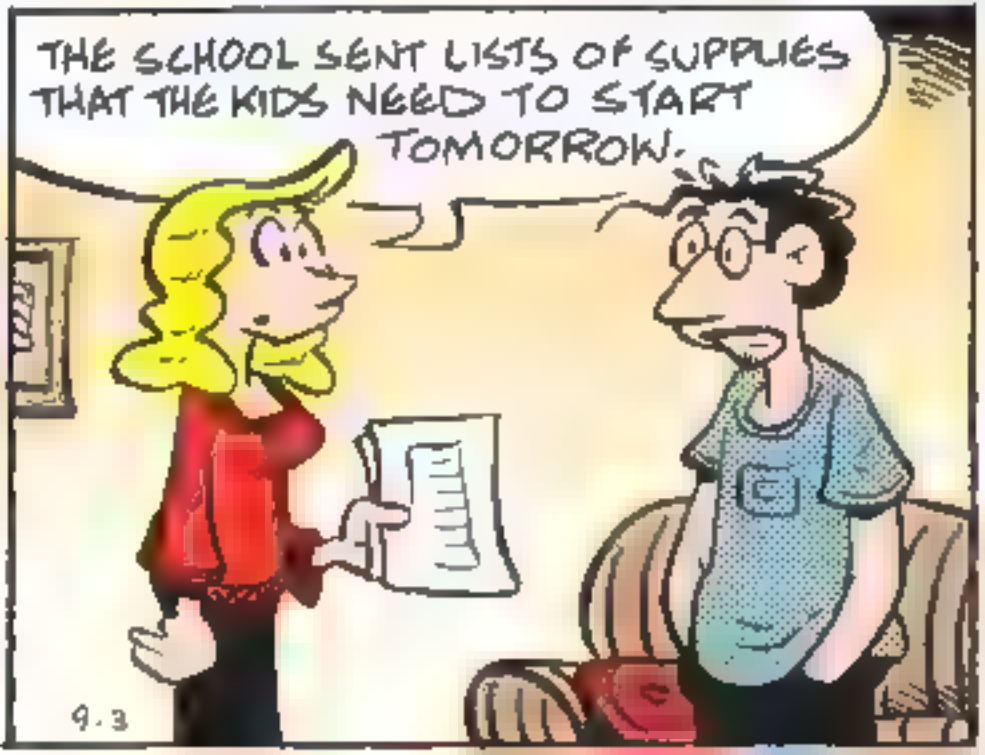

DID YOU AND DAD HAVE FUN ON THE RIDES, COLIN?
YEAH. BUT NOW DAD DOESN'T FEEL SO WELL.

WHAT'S WRONG, LEN?
I'M JUST A LITTLE QUEASY, THAT'S ALL.

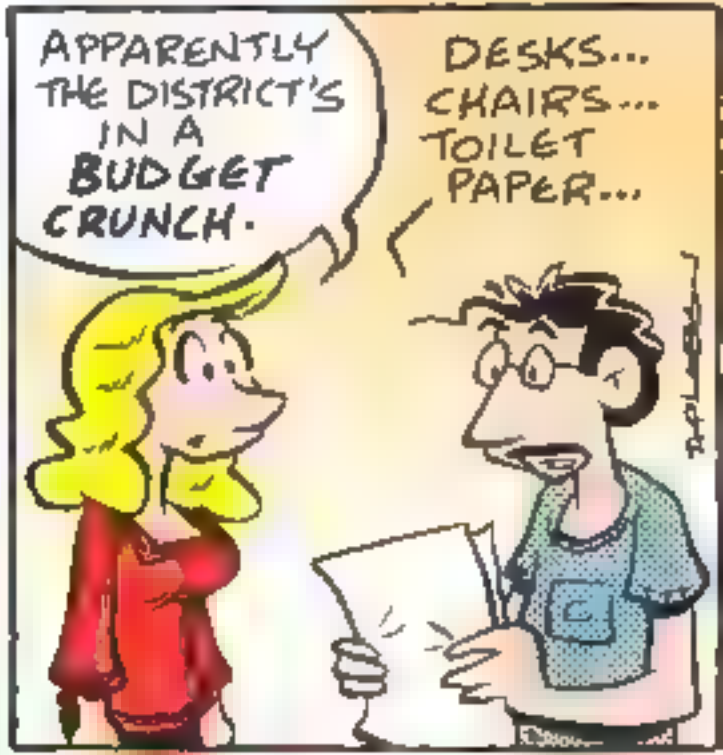

I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT! ;SIGH!: I GUESS I'M GETTING TOO OLD FOR THAT SORT OF THING.

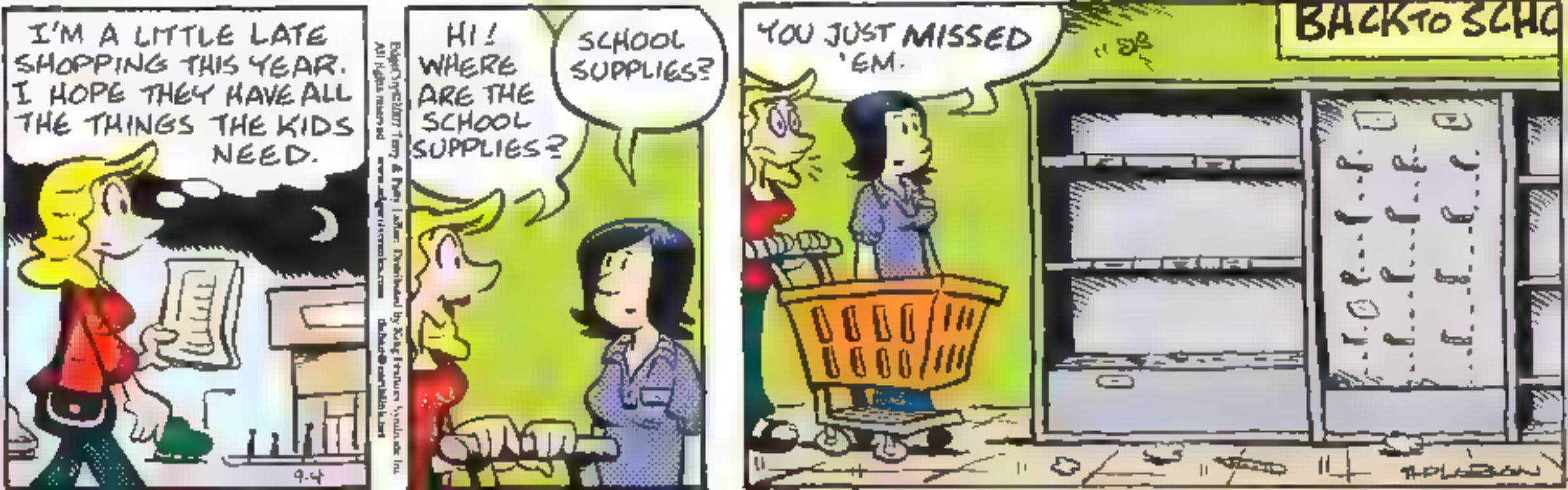
WHAT ROLLER COASTER DID YOU GO ON?
ROLLER COASTER?

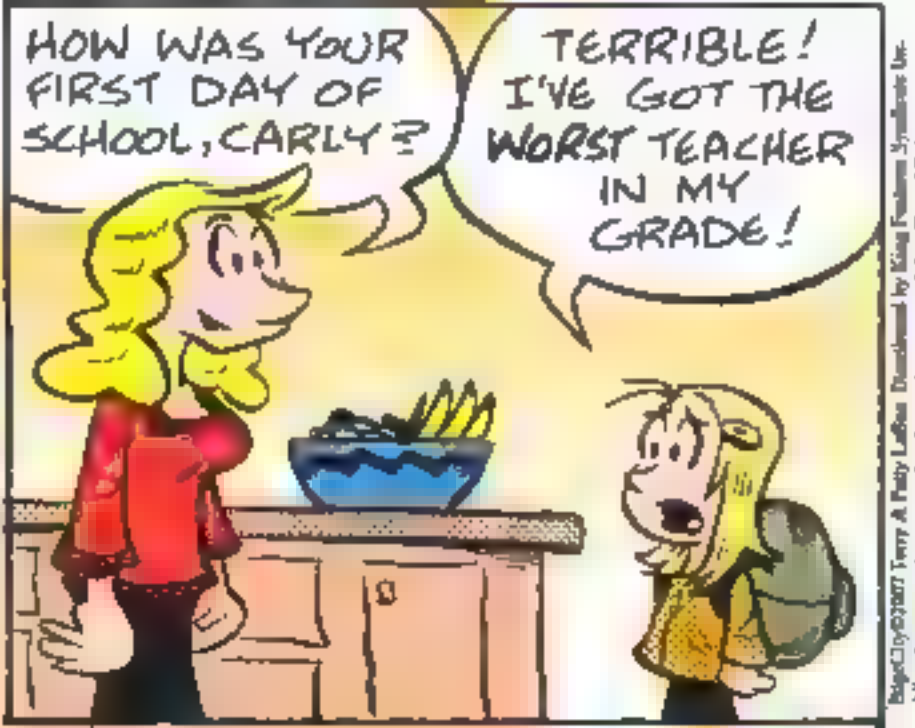
I ATE A FUNNEL CAKE!
CAN I FINISH IT?


THE SCHOOL SENT LISTS OF SUPPLIES THAT THE KIDS NEED TO START TOMORROW.
9-3

WE NEED TO GET A LOT MORE STUFF THAN LAST YEAR.
PENCILS... MARKERS... BINDERS...


APPARENTLY THE DISTRICT'S IN A BUDGET CRUNCH.
DESKS... CHAIRS... TOILET PAPER...


I'M A LITTLE LATE SHOPPING THIS YEAR. I HOPE THEY HAVE ALL THE THINGS THE KIDS NEED.
9-4
HI! WHERE ARE THE SCHOOL SUPPLIES?
SCHOOL SUPPLIES?
YOU JUST MISSED 'EM.
BACK TO SCHO



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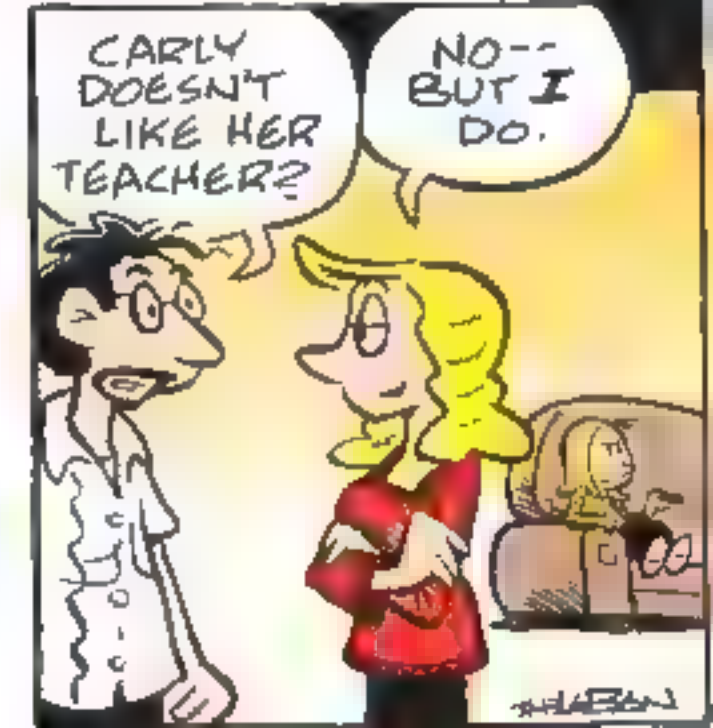

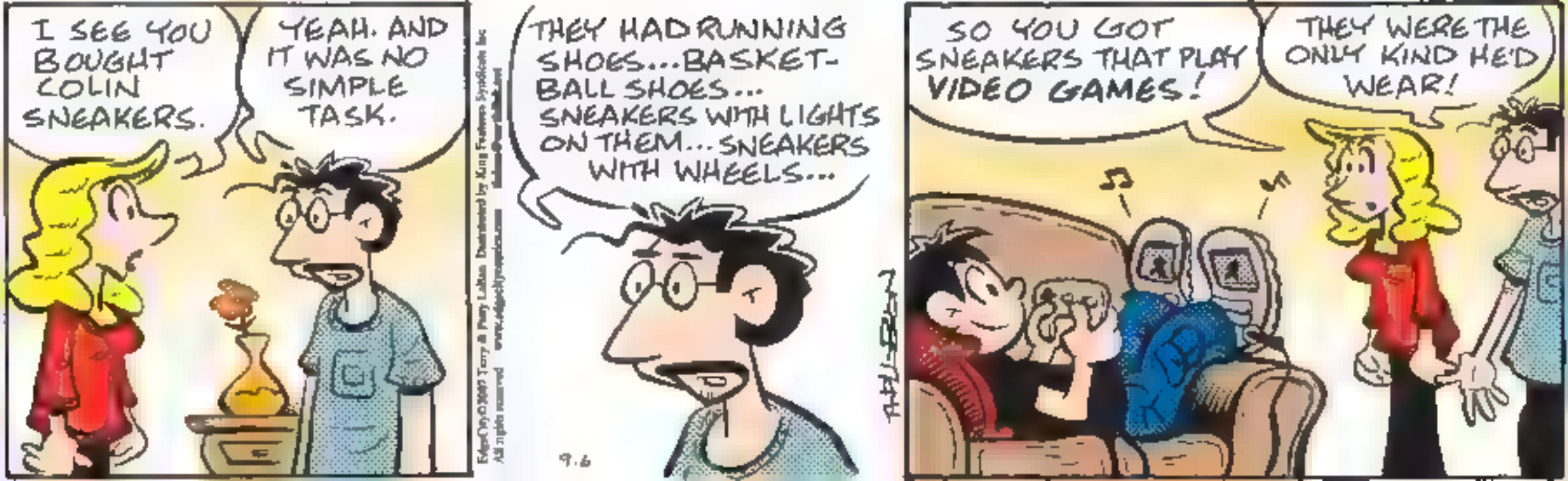
I SEE YOU BOUGHT COLIN SNEAKERS.
YEAH. AND IT WAS NO SIMPLE TASK.
THEY HAD RUNNING SHOES...BASKET-BALL SHOES... SNEAKERS WITH LIGHTS ON THEM...SNEAKERS WITH WHEELS...
9.6
SO YOU GOT SNEAKERS THAT PLAY VIDEO GAMES!
THEY WERE THE ONLY KIND HE'D WEAR!

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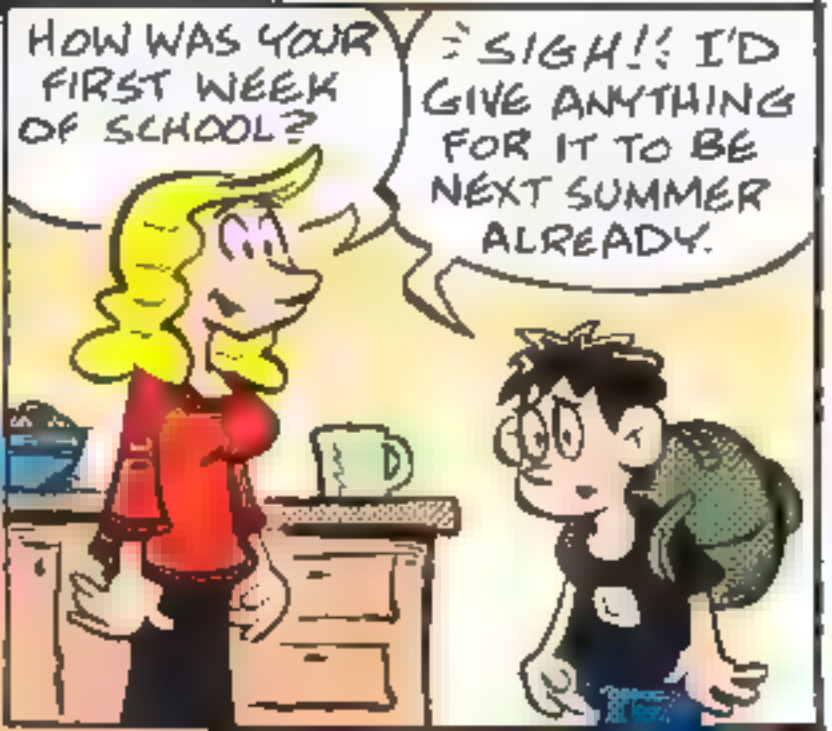
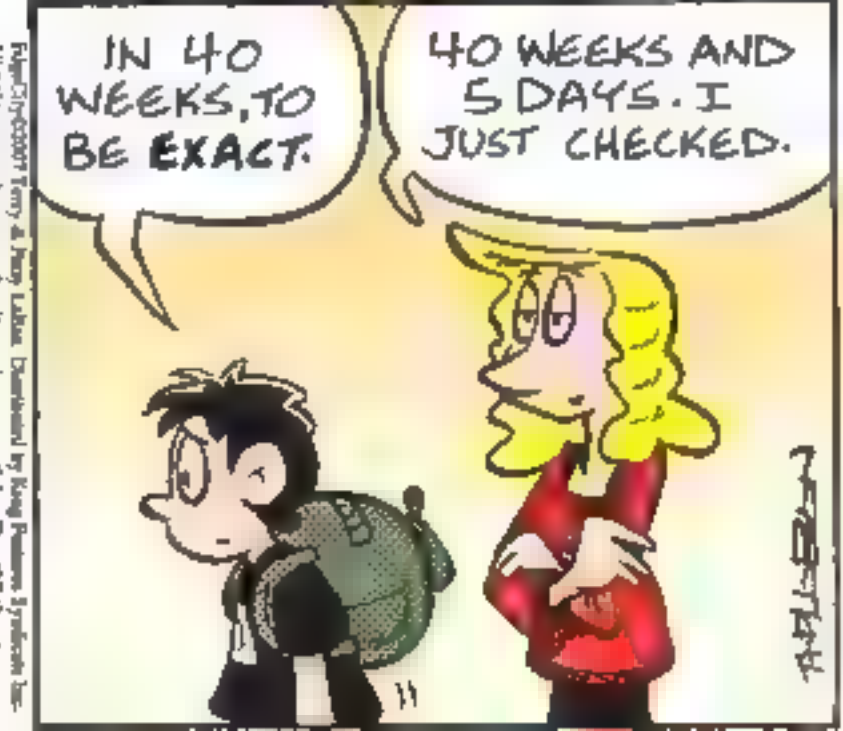
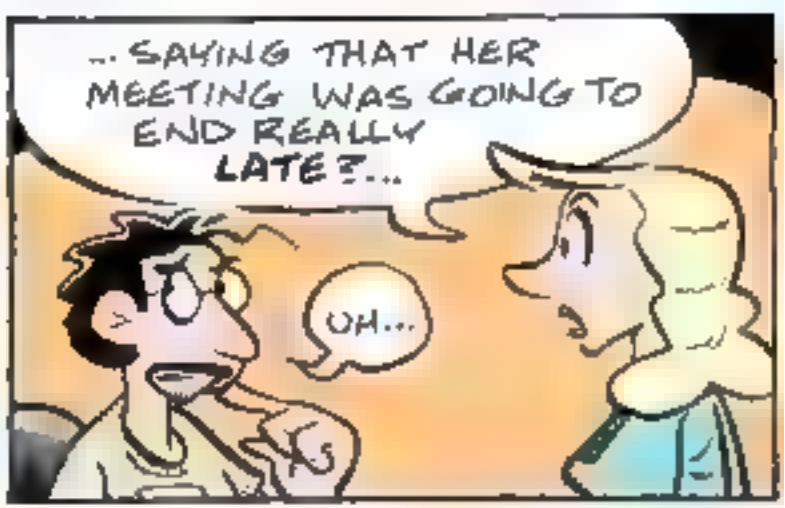

HOW WAS YOUR FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL?
SIGH!! I'D GIVE ANYTHING FOR IT TO BE NEXT SUMMER ALREADY.

DON'T WISH YOUR LIFE AWAY, HONEY. NEXT SUMMER WILL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.
9-8


IN 40 WEEKS, TO BE EXACT.
40 WEEKS AND 5 DAYS. I JUST CHECKED.



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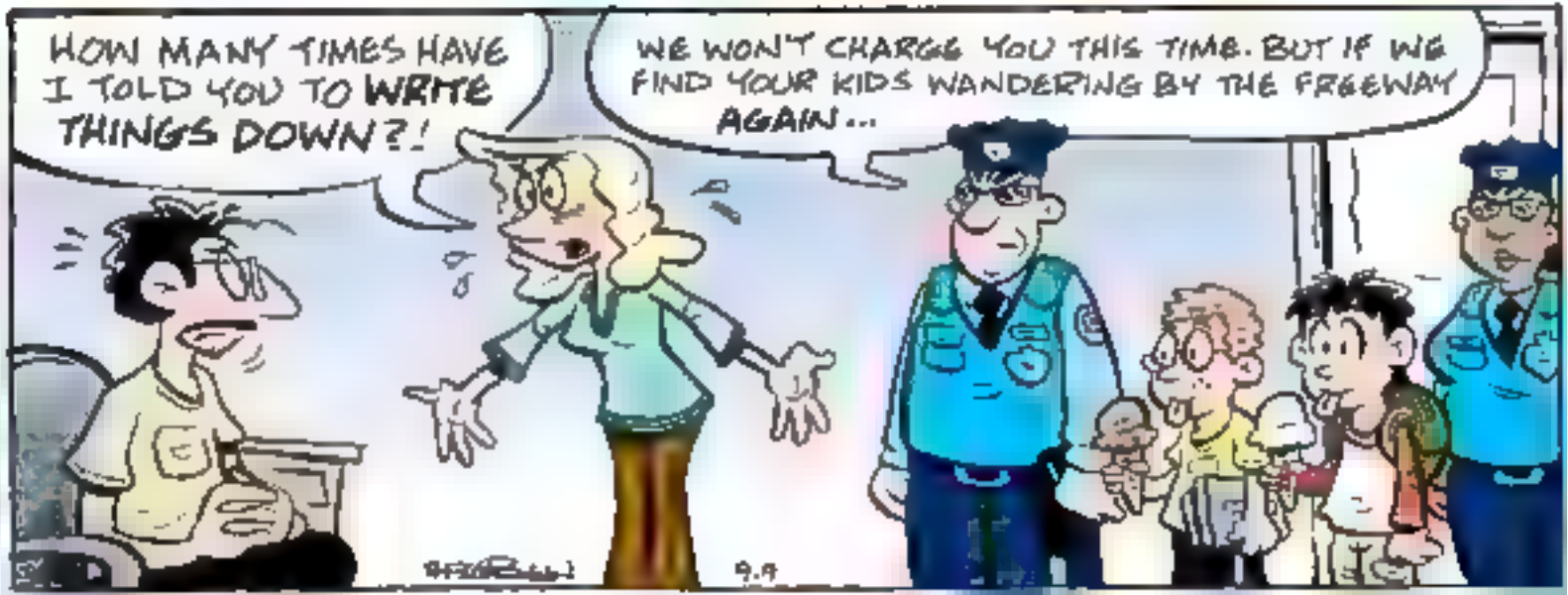

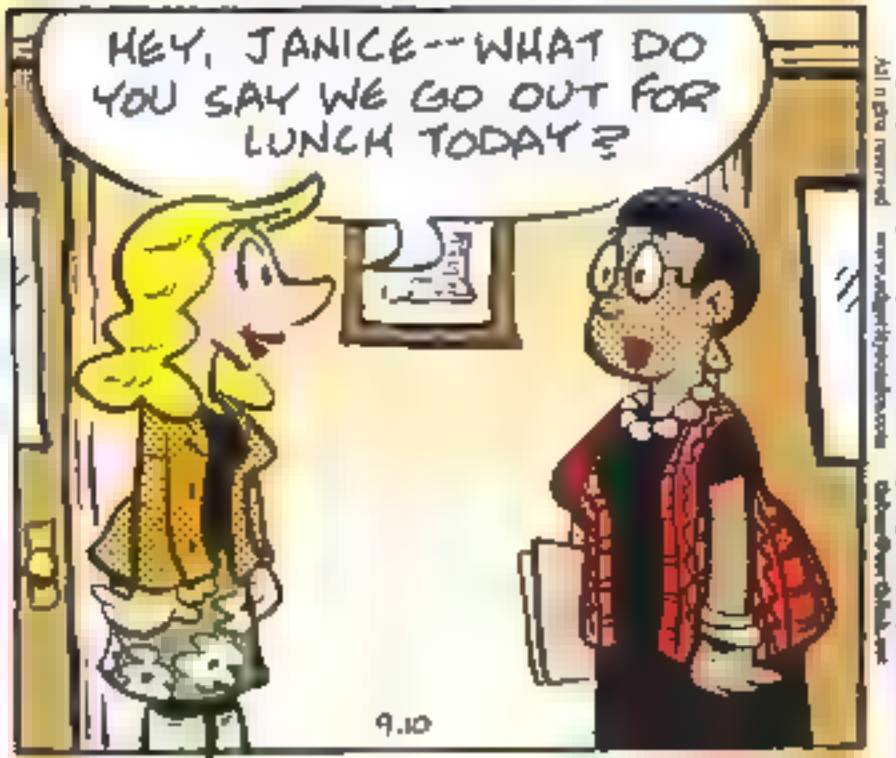

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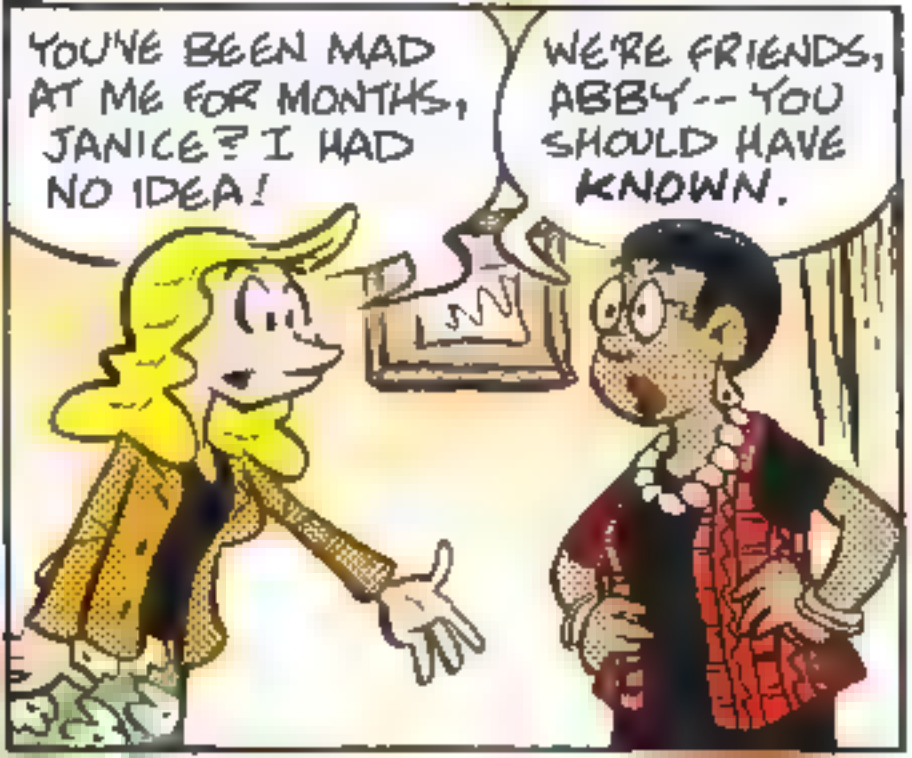
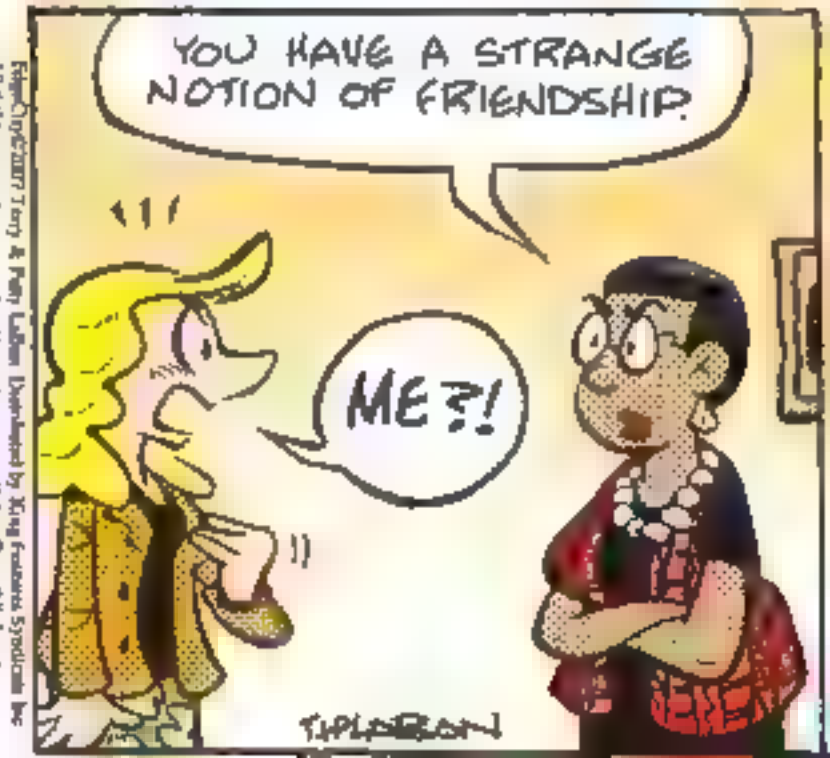
JANICE, HAVE YOU BEEN MAD AT ME?
I'VE BEEN WONDERING WHEN YOU'D NOTICE.
9.11
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST TELL ME?
I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO! WE'RE GOOD ENOUGH FRIENDS THAT IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS.
IF YOU WERE MY THERAPY CLIENT I'D THINK YOU WERE BEING CO-DEPENDENT.
AND IF YOU WERE MINE I'D THINK YOU WERE WEAK AT READING NON-VERBAL CUES!





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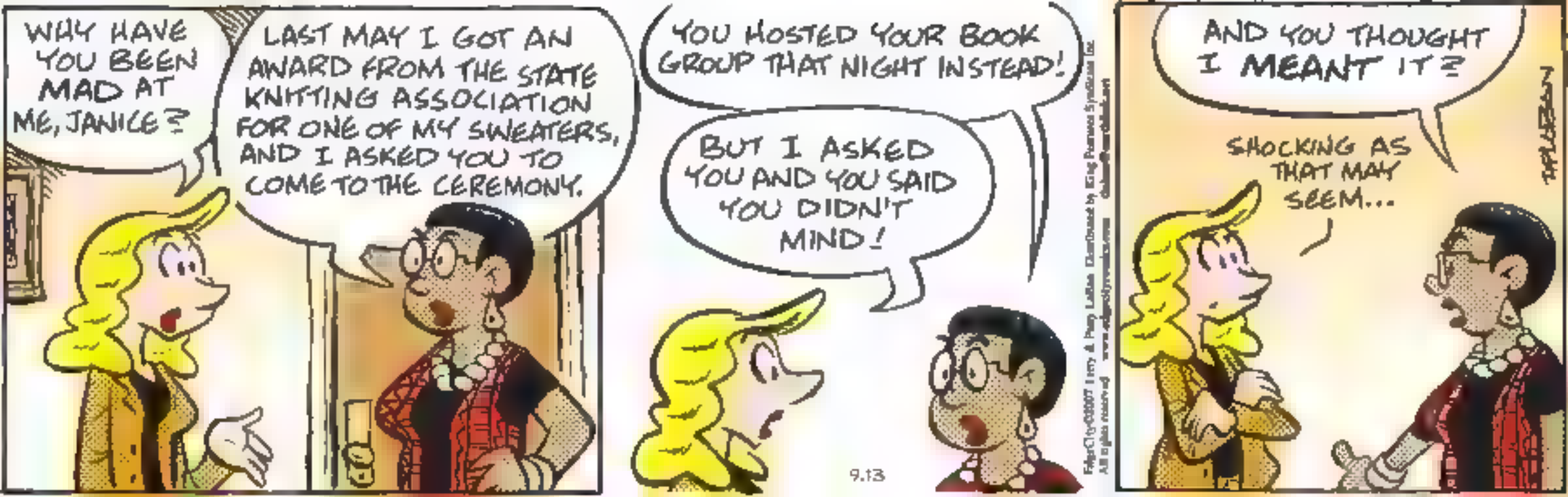
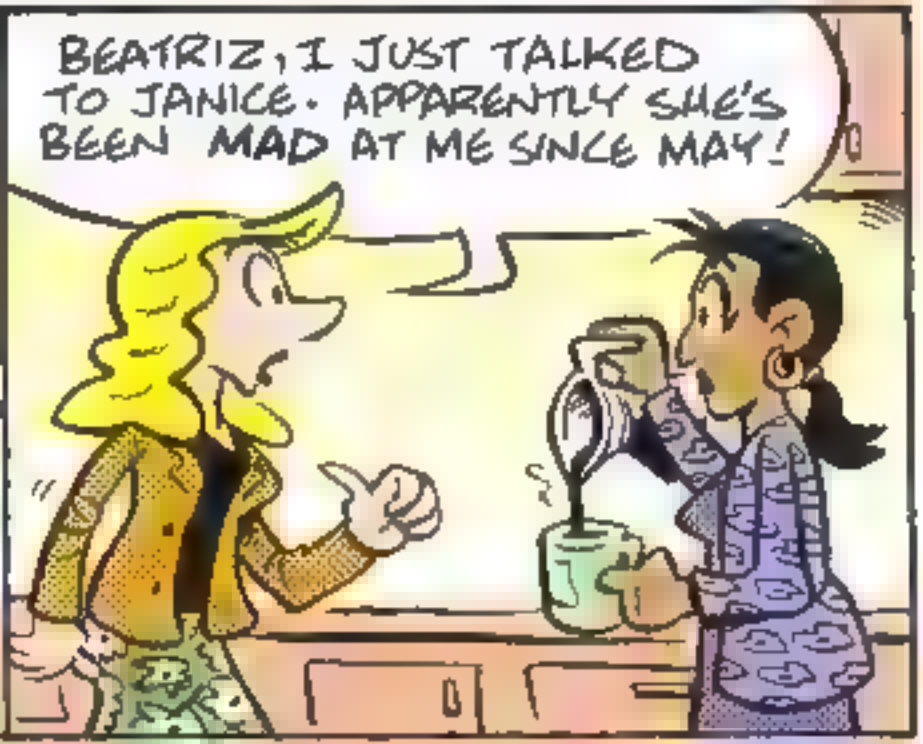

WHY HAVE YOU BEEN MAD AT ME, JANICE?
LAST MAY I GOT AN AWARD FROM THE STATE KNITTING ASSOCIATION FOR ONE OF MY SWEATERS, AND I ASKED YOU TO COME TO THE CEREMONY.
YOU HOSTED YOUR BOOK GROUP THAT NIGHT INSTEAD!
BUT I ASKED YOU AND YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T MIND!
9.13
AND YOU THOUGHT I MEANT IT?
SHOCKING AS THAT MAY SEEM...
TAPLIN



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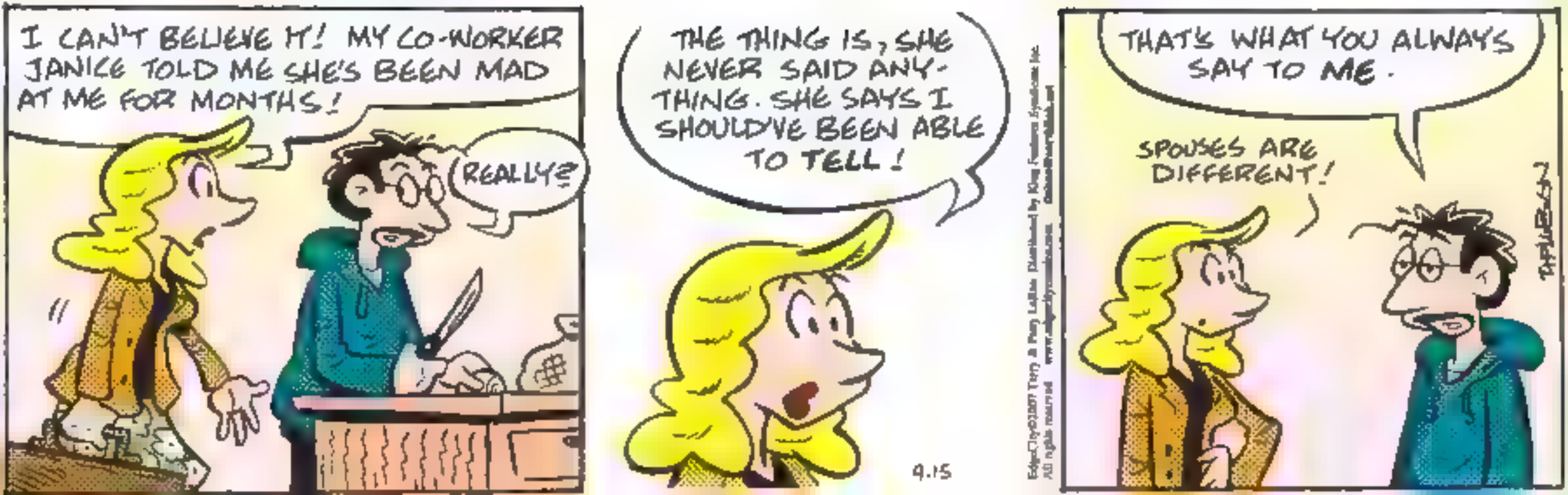
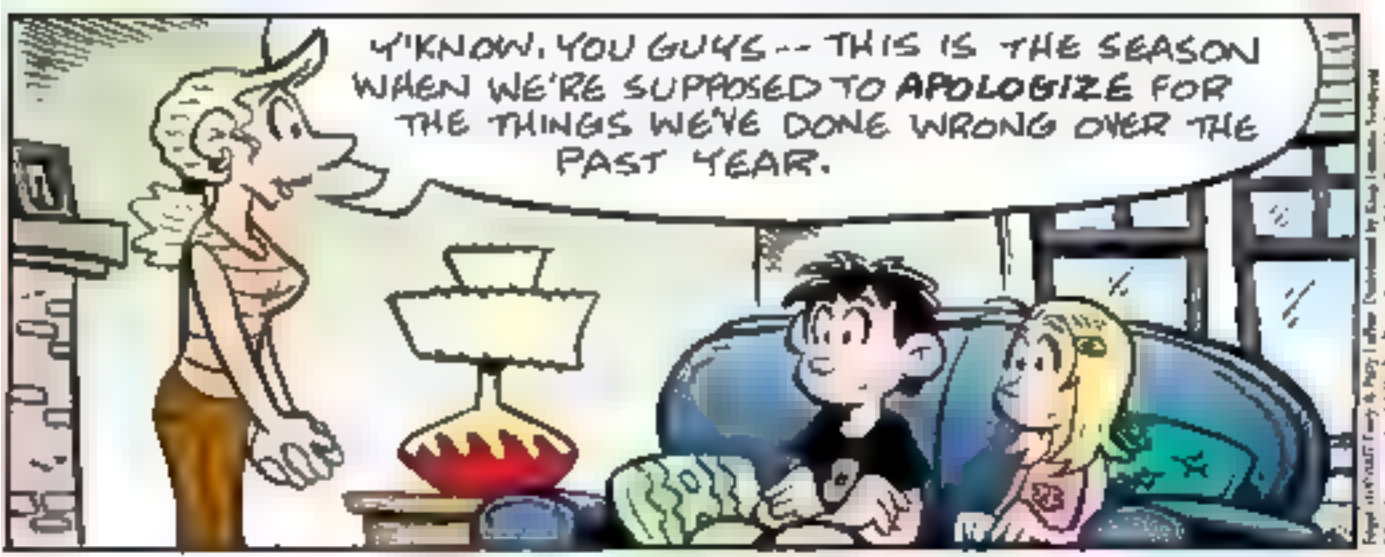
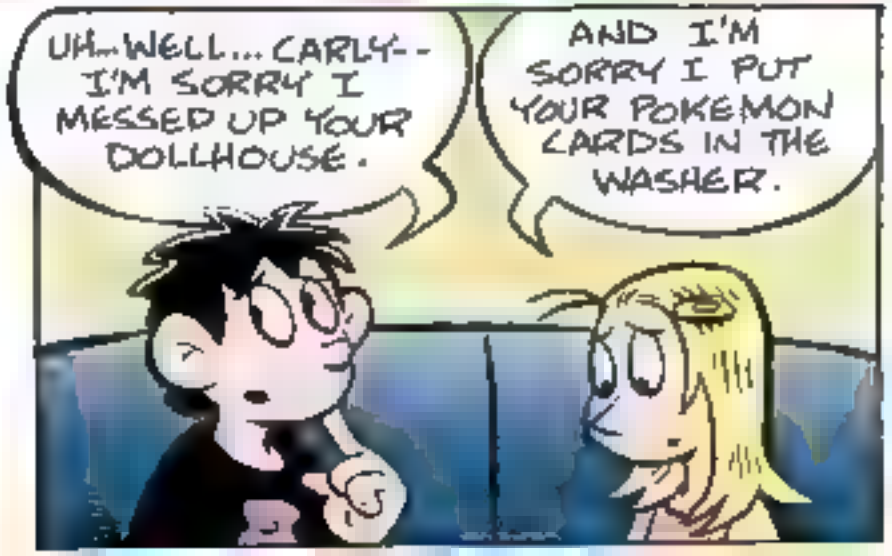
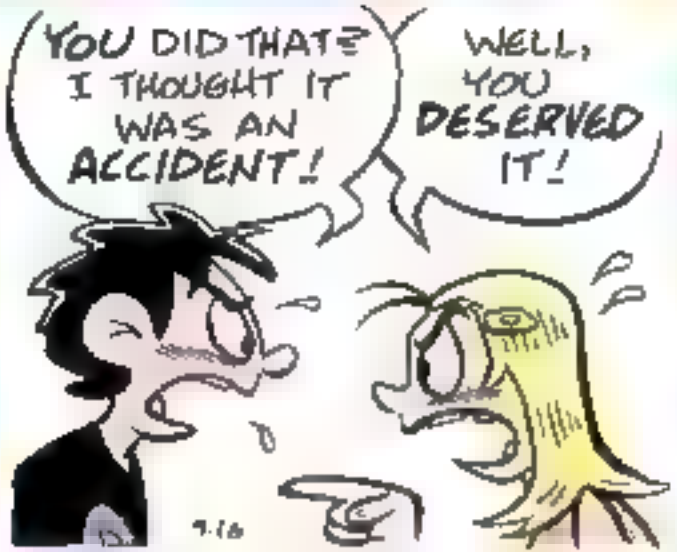

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! MY CO-WORKER JANICE TOLD ME SHE'S BEEN MAD AT ME FOR MONTHS!
REALLY?
THE THING IS, SHE NEVER SAID ANYTHING. SHE SAYS I SHOULDVE BEEN ABLE TO TELL!
9.15
THAT'S WHAT YOU ALWAYS SAY TO ME.
SPOUSES ARE DIFFERENT!

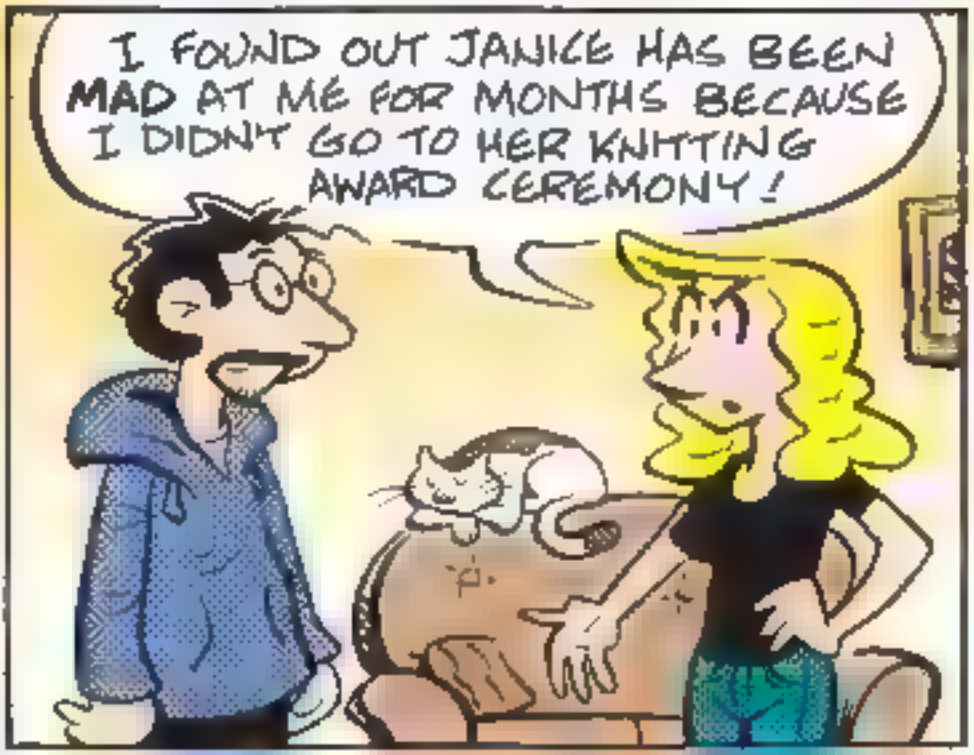

Y'KNOW, YOU GUYS -- THIS IS THE SEASON WHEN WE'RE SUPPOSED TO **APOLOGIZE** FOR THE THINGS WE'VE DONE WRONG OVER THE PAST YEAR.

I THINK IT'D BE GREAT IF YOU STARTED WITH EACH OTHER. IT MIGHT BE HARD, BUT GIVE IT A TRY.


UH... WELL... CARLY-- I'M SORRY I MESSED UP YOUR DOLLHOUSE.
AND I'M SORRY I PUT YOUR POKEMON CARDS IN THE WASHER.


YOU DID THAT? I THOUGHT IT WAS AN **ACCIDENT!**
WELL, YOU **DESERVED** IT!

NEXT WE'LL HAVE TO WORK ON FORGIVENESS.



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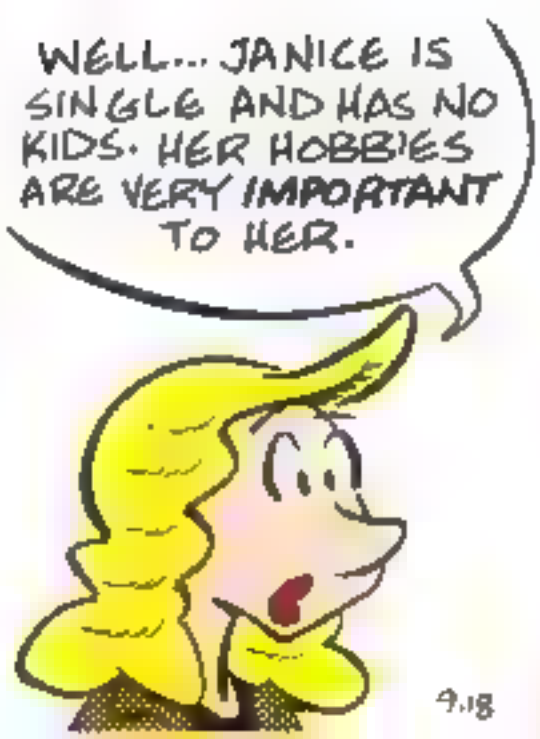

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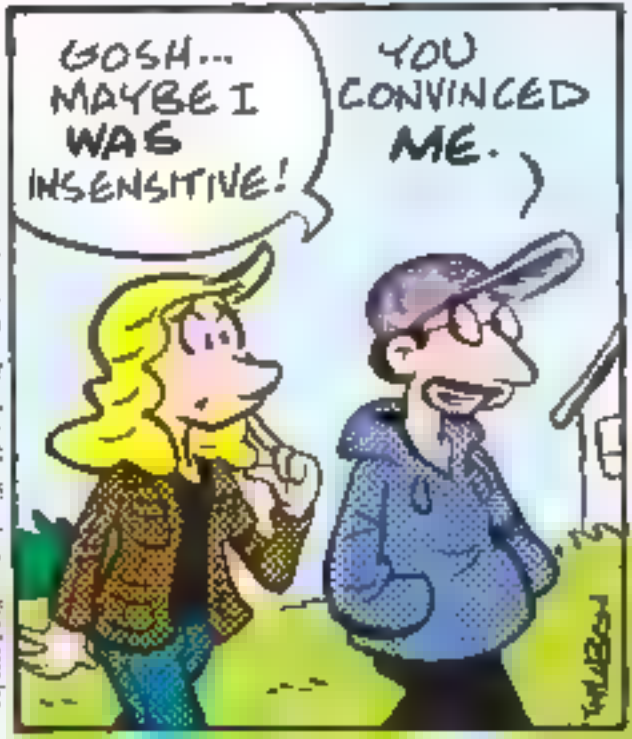

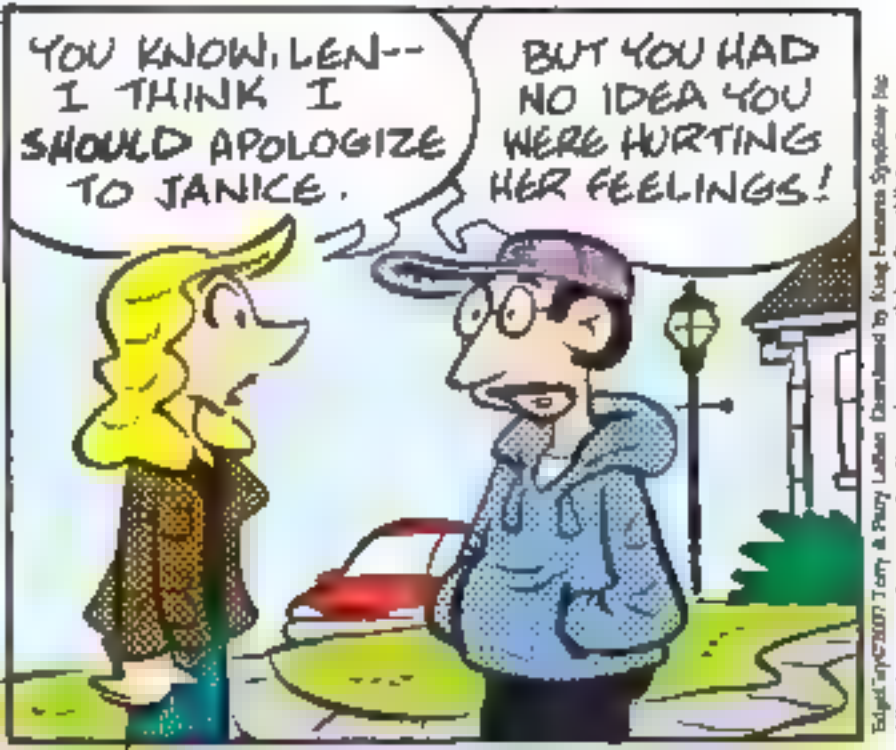

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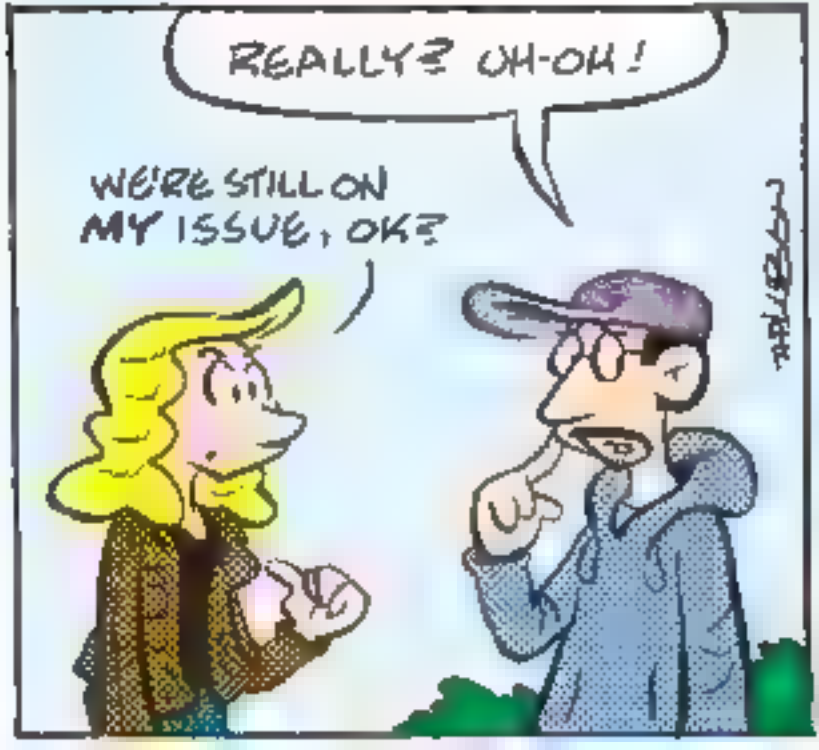
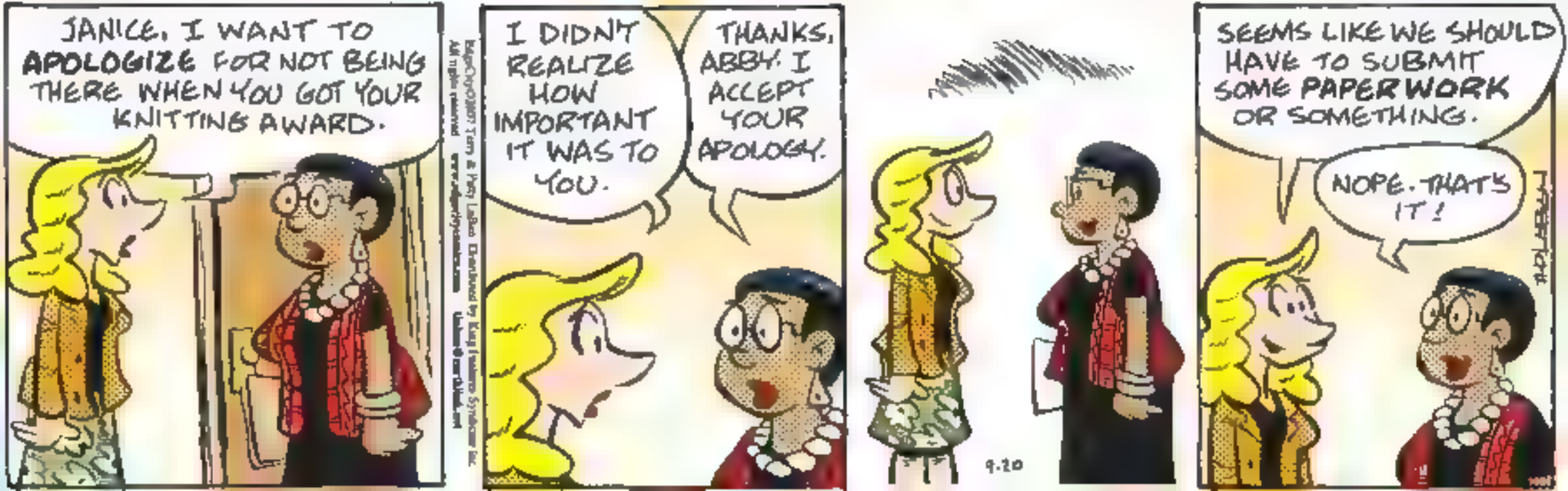
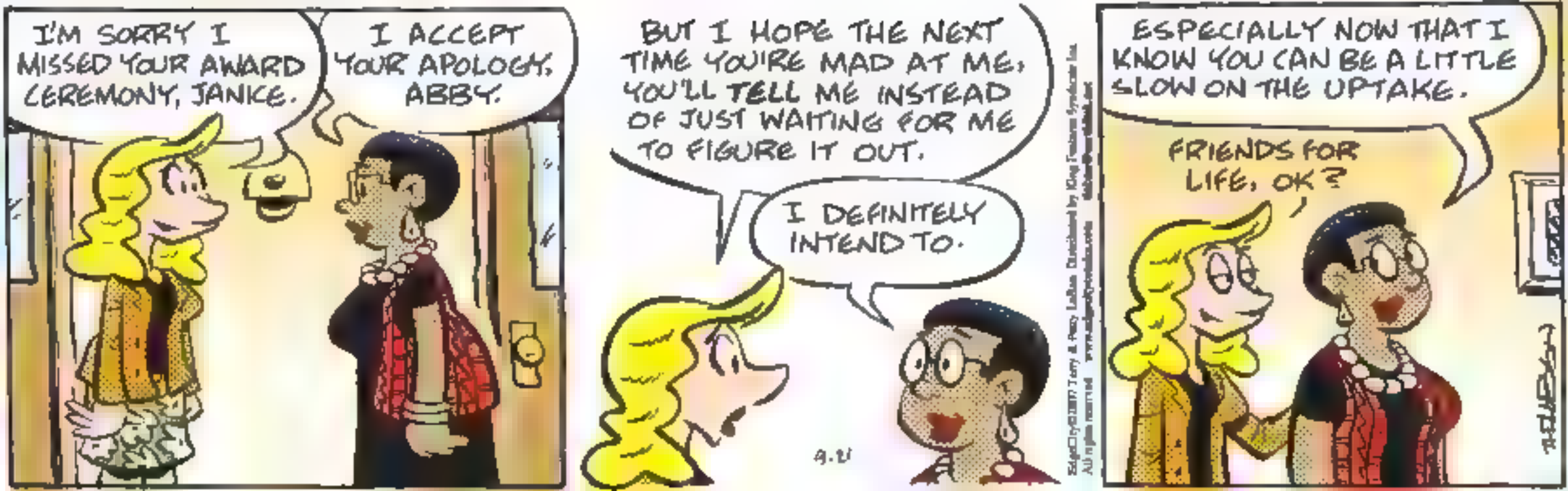
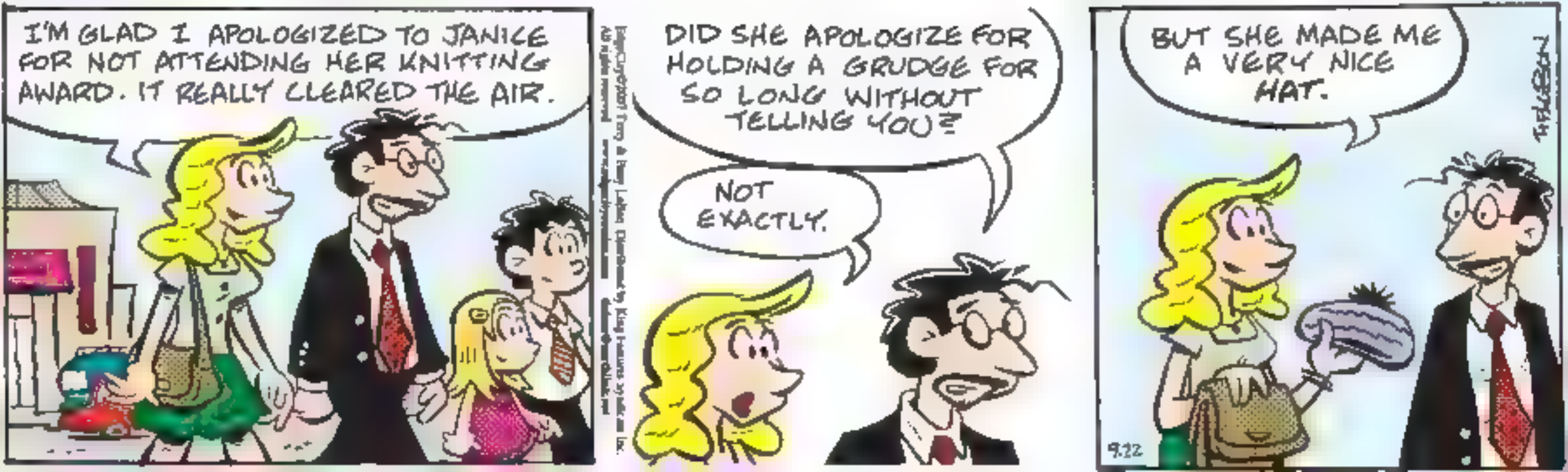



JANICE, I WANT TO APOLOGIZE FOR NOT BEING THERE WHEN YOU GOT YOUR KNITTING AWARD.
I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS TO YOU.
THANKS, ABBY. I ACCEPT YOUR APOLOGY.
9-20
SEEMS LIKE WE SHOULD HAVE TO SUBMIT SOME PAPERWORK OR SOMETHING.
NOPE. THAT'S IT!


I'M SORRY I MISSED YOUR AWARD CEREMONY, JANICE.
I ACCEPT YOUR APOLOGY, ABBY.
BUT I HOPE THE NEXT TIME YOU'RE MAD AT ME, YOU'LL TELL ME INSTEAD OF JUST WAITING FOR ME TO FIGURE IT OUT.
I DEFINITELY INTEND TO.
ESPECIALLY NOW THAT I KNOW YOU CAN BE A LITTLE SLOW ON THE UPTAKE.
FRIENDS FOR LIFE, OK?


I'M GLAD I APOLOGIZED TO JANICE FOR NOT ATTENDING HER KNITTING AWARD. IT REALLY CLEARED THE AIR.
DID SHE APOLOGIZE FOR HOLDING A GRUDGE FOR SO LONG WITHOUT TELLING YOU?
NOT EXACTLY.
BUT SHE MADE ME A VERY NICE HAT.
9.22

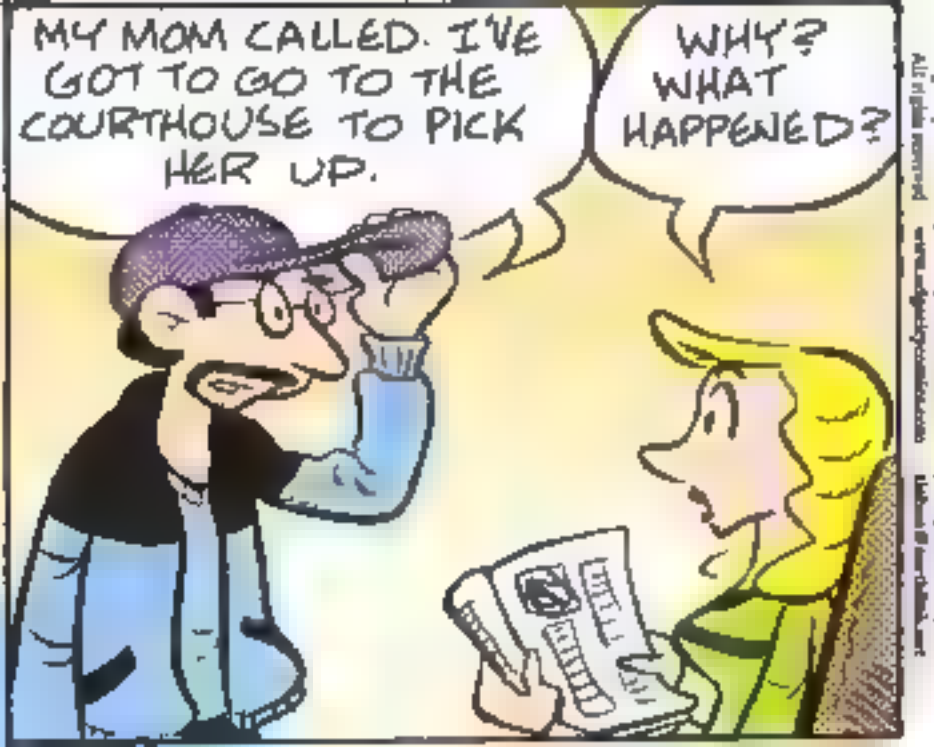
SO, MIKE--YOU'RE THINKING OF DROPPING YOUR ACCOUNT WITH US?
SORRY, GUYS, BUT IT JUST MAKES SENSE.

THE BIG DELIVERY CHAINS ARE OFFERING DEEP DISCOUNTS RIGHT NOW.

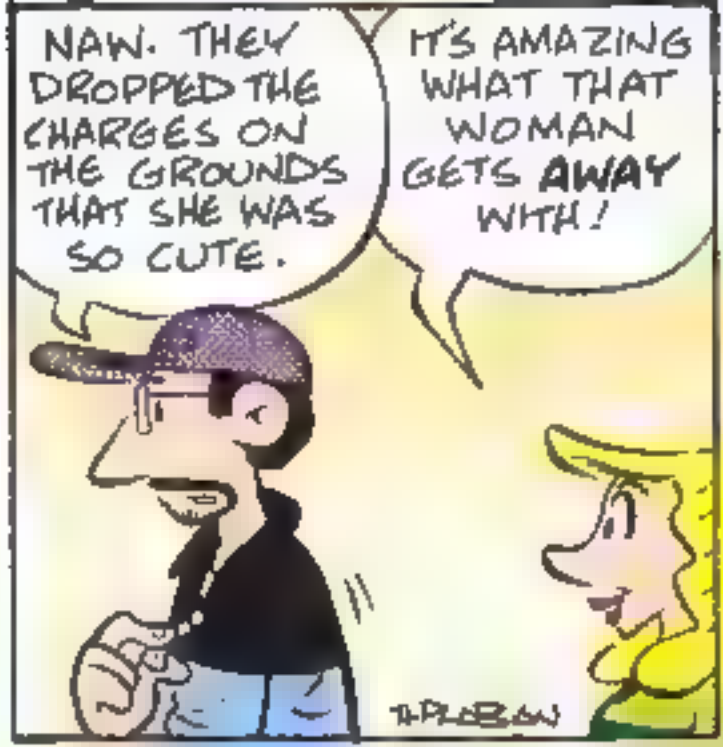
BUT WE OFFER A LEVEL OF PERSONAL SERVICE THAT THEY NEVER COULD.
TRUE.

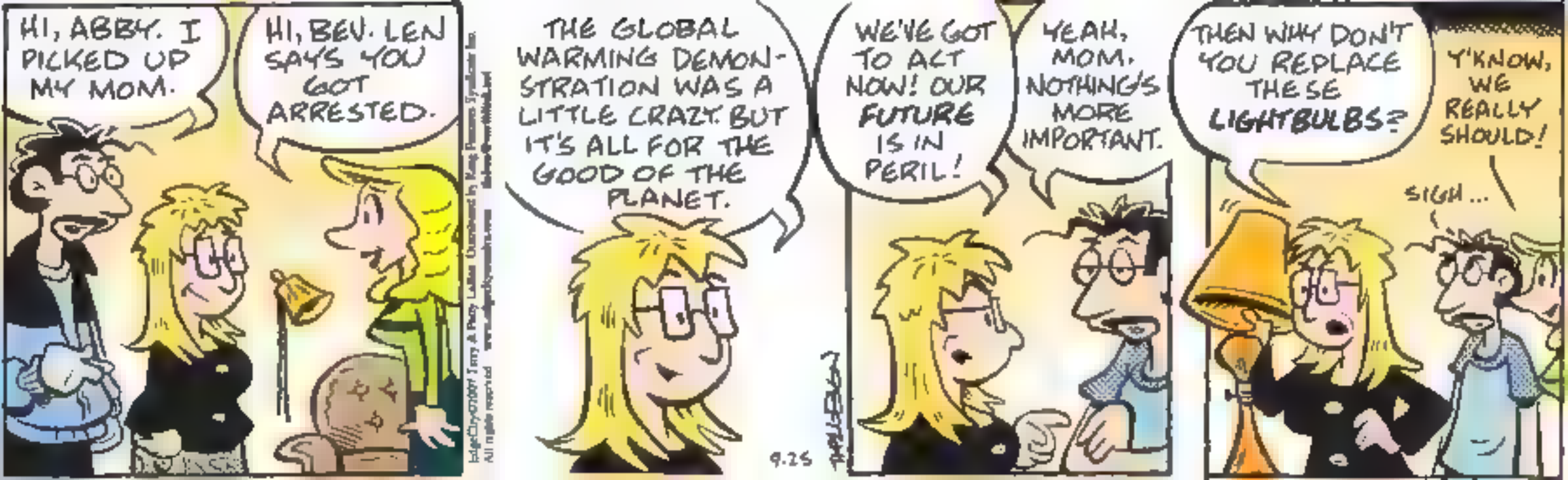
BUT YOU GUYS WOULD HAVE TO OFFER A LOT MORE PERSONAL SERVICE TO MAKE IT WORTH MY WHILE.

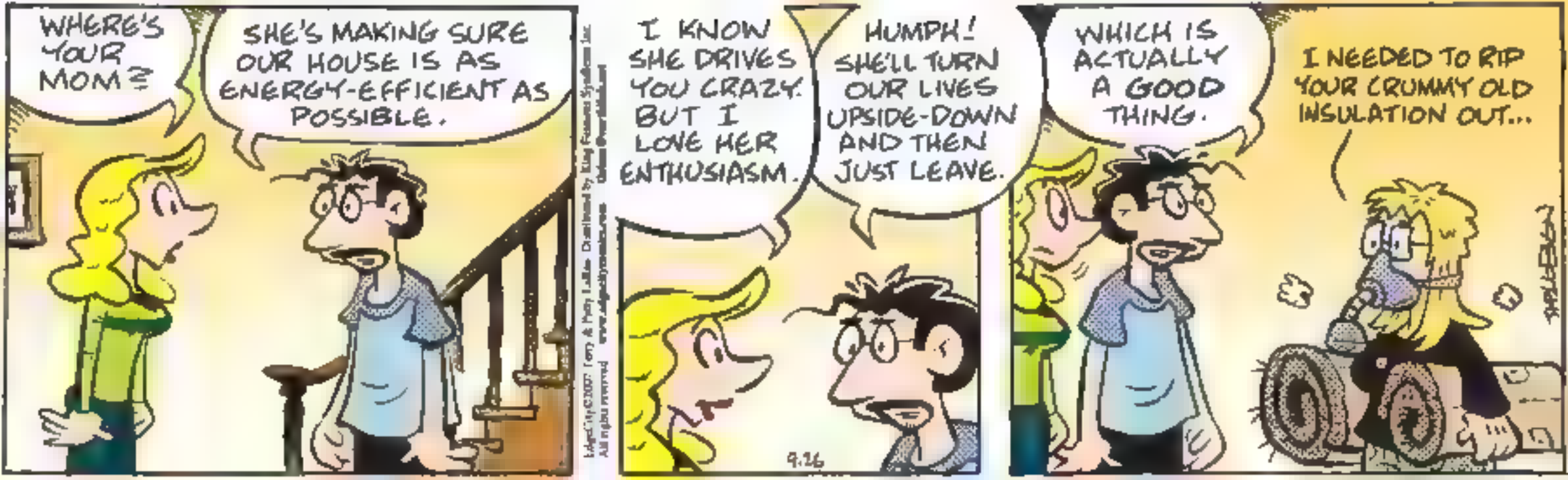
I THINK THAT'S GOING TO NEED A SECOND COAT.

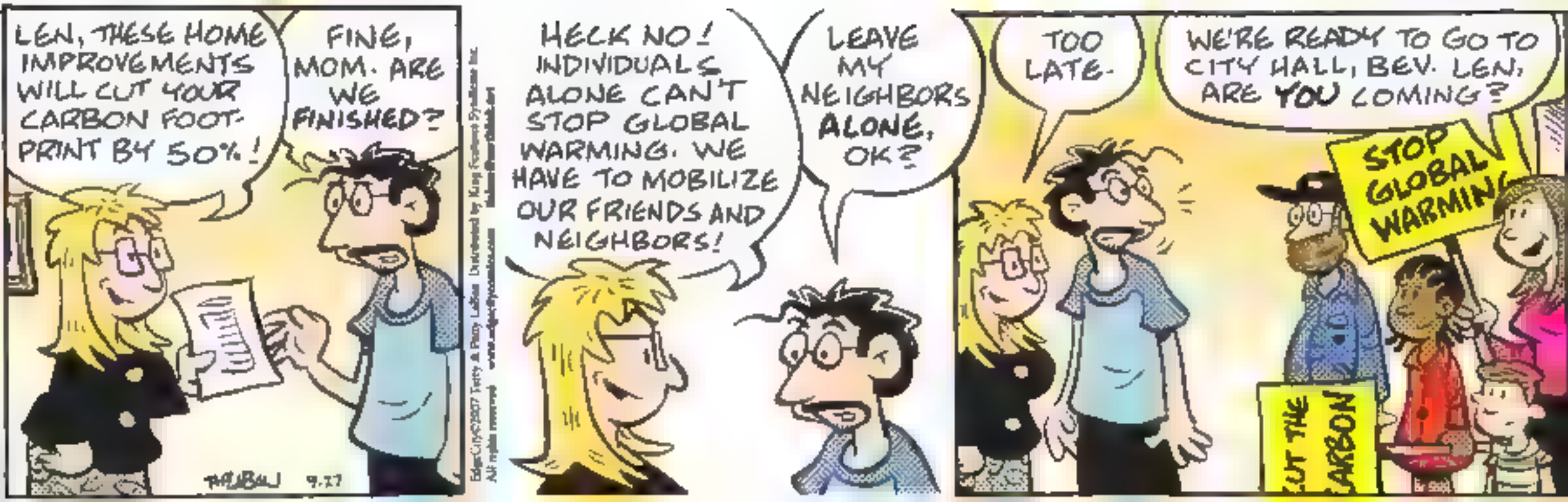

MY MOM CALLED. I'VE GOT TO GO TO THE COURTHOUSE TO PICK HER UP.
WHY? WHAT HAPPENED?

SHE GOT ARRESTED AT A DEMONSTRATION AGAINST GLOBAL WARMING.
OH NO! WILL SHE NEED A LAWYER?
9.24


NAW. THEY DROPPED THE CHARGES ON THE GROUNDS THAT SHE WAS SO CUTE.
IT'S AMAZING WHAT THAT WOMAN GETS **AWAY** WITH!


HI, ABBY. I PICKED UP MY MOM.
HI, BEV. LEN SAYS YOU GOT ARRESTED.
THE GLOBAL WARMING DEMONSTRATION WAS A LITTLE CRAZY. BUT IT'S ALL FOR THE GOOD OF THE PLANET.
WE'VE GOT TO ACT NOW! OUR FUTURE IS IN PERIL!
YEAH, MOM. NOTHING'S MORE IMPORTANT.
THEN WHY DON'T YOU REPLACE THESE LIGHTBULBS?
Y'KNOW, WE REALLY SHOULD!
SIGH...
9.25


WHERE'S YOUR MOM?
SHE'S MAKING SURE OUR HOUSE IS AS ENERGY-EFFICIENT AS POSSIBLE.
I KNOW SHE DRIVES YOU CRAZY. BUT I LOVE HER ENTHUSIASM.
HUMPH! SHE'LL TURN OUR LIVES UPSIDE-DOWN AND THEN JUST LEAVE.
9.26
WHICH IS ACTUALLY A GOOD THING.
I NEEDED TO RIP YOUR CRUMMY OLD INSULATION OUT...



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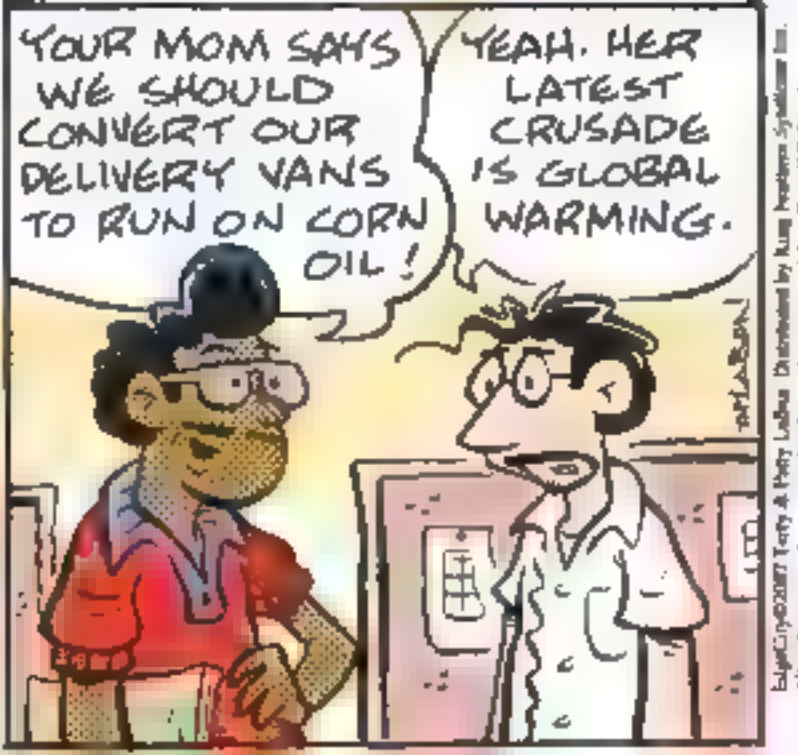
RAJIV, THIS IS MY MOM, BEV. SHE WANTED TO SEE OUR OFFICE.
HI, BEV! PLEASED TO MEET YOU!
I'M VERY INVOLVED WITH THE FIGHT AGAINST GLOBAL WARMING. CAN I LOOK AROUND AND MAKE SOME SUGGESTIONS?
BE OUR GUEST!
9.18
HEH! SHE'S A REAL CUTIE!
THAT'S WHAT THEY ALL SAY.
IF AL GORE SAW THESE WINDOWS, HE'D PLOTZ!



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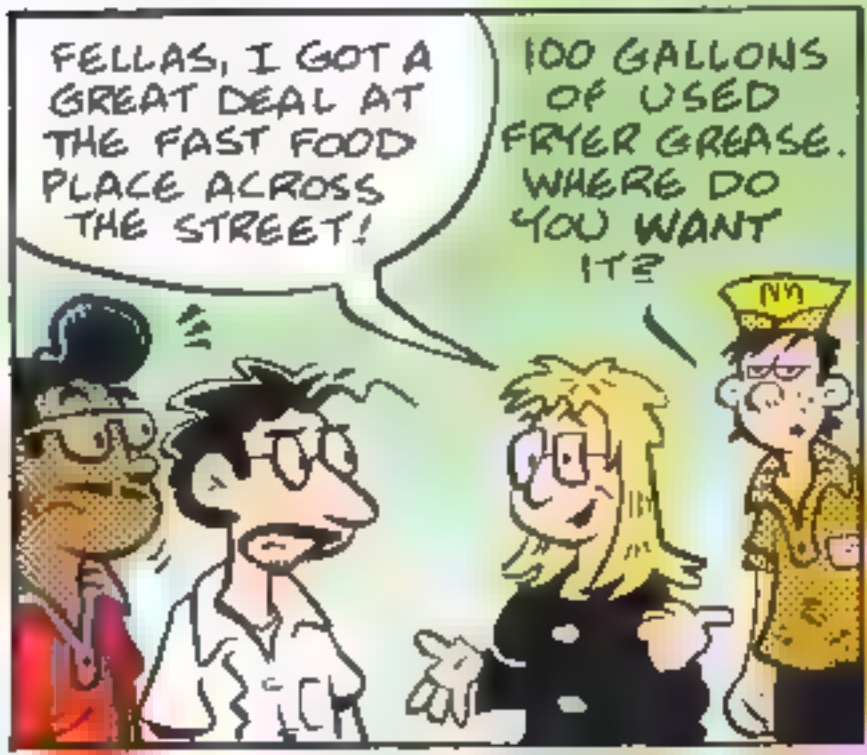
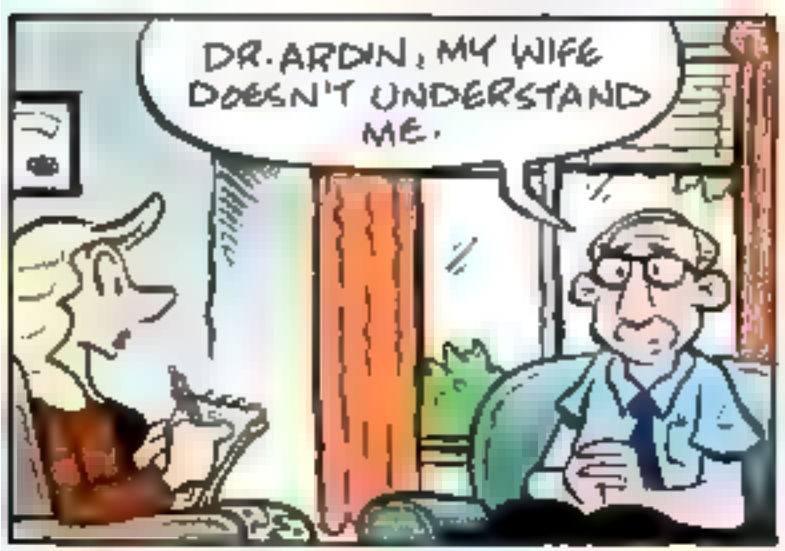
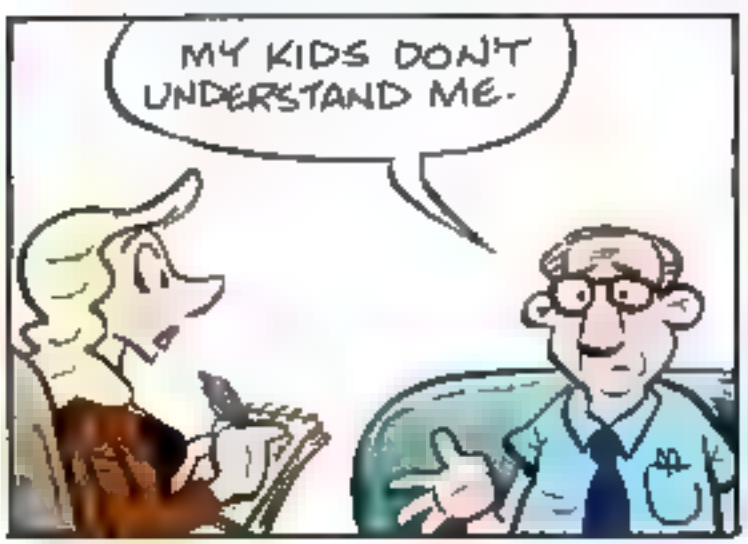


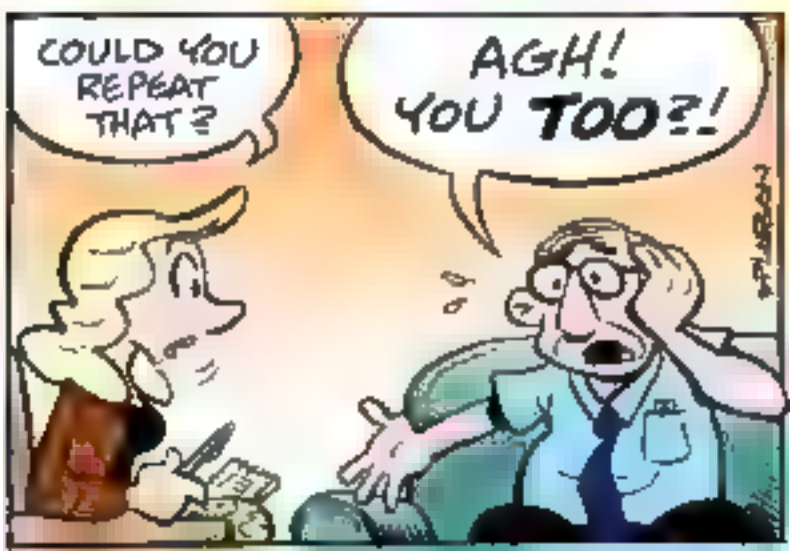

DR. ARDIN, MY WIFE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ME.

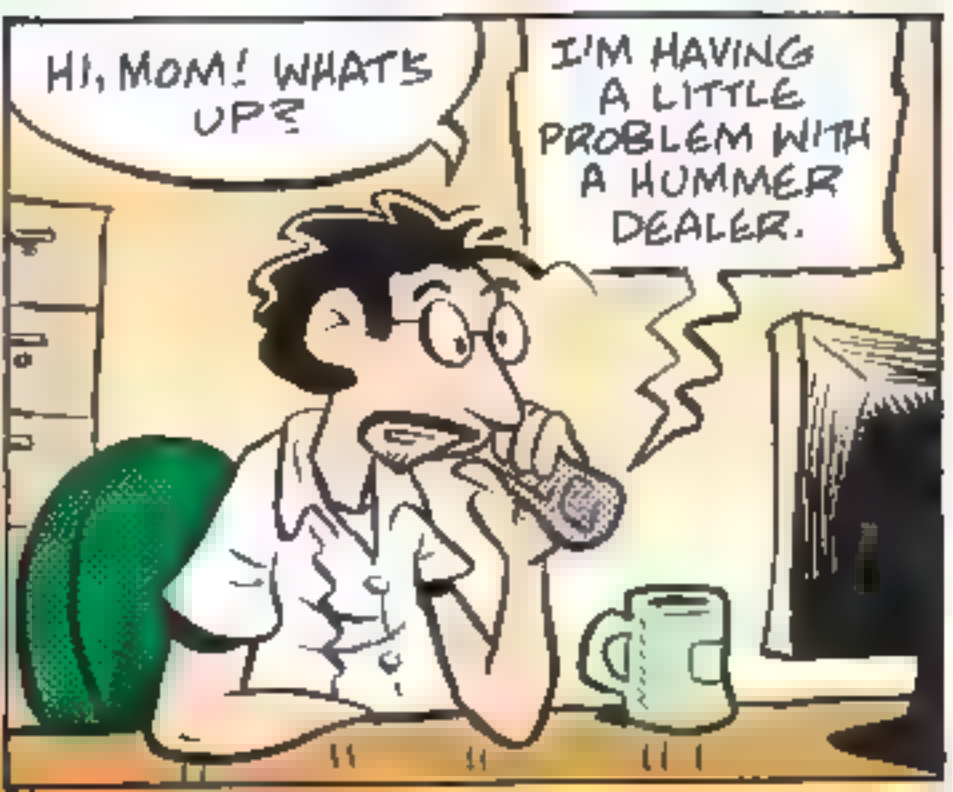

MY KIDS DON'T UNDERSTAND ME.

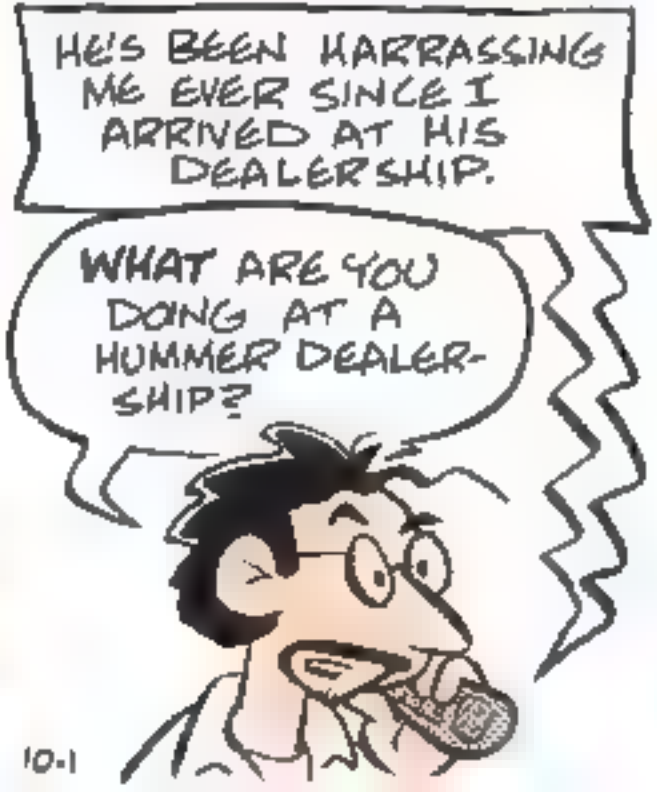
MY CO-WORKERS DON'T UNDERSTAND ME!

HMM... SO WHAT DO YOU THINK THE REAL ISSUE IS?

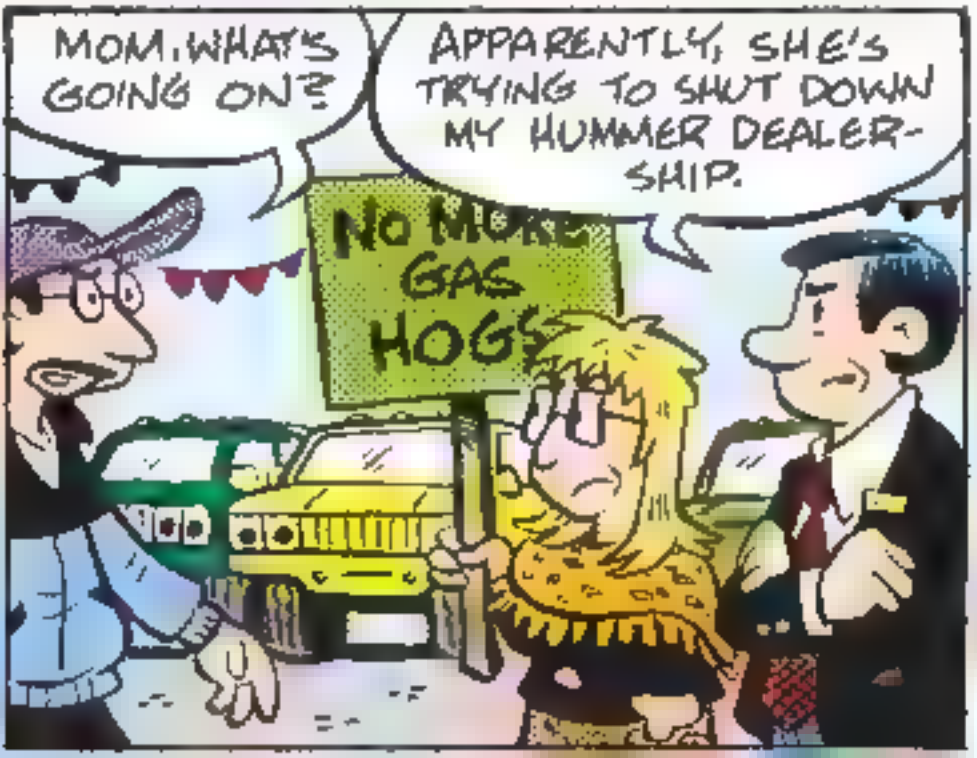
MLPXCLZ.


COULD YOU REPEAT THAT?
AGH! YOU TOO?!


HI, MOM! WHAT'S UP?
I'M HAVING A LITTLE PROBLEM WITH A HUMMER DEALER.


HE'S BEEN HARRASSING ME EVER SINCE I ARRIVED AT HIS DEALERSHIP.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT A HUMMER DEALER-SHIP?
10-1

PICKETING IT.
I'LL BE RIGHT DOWN.



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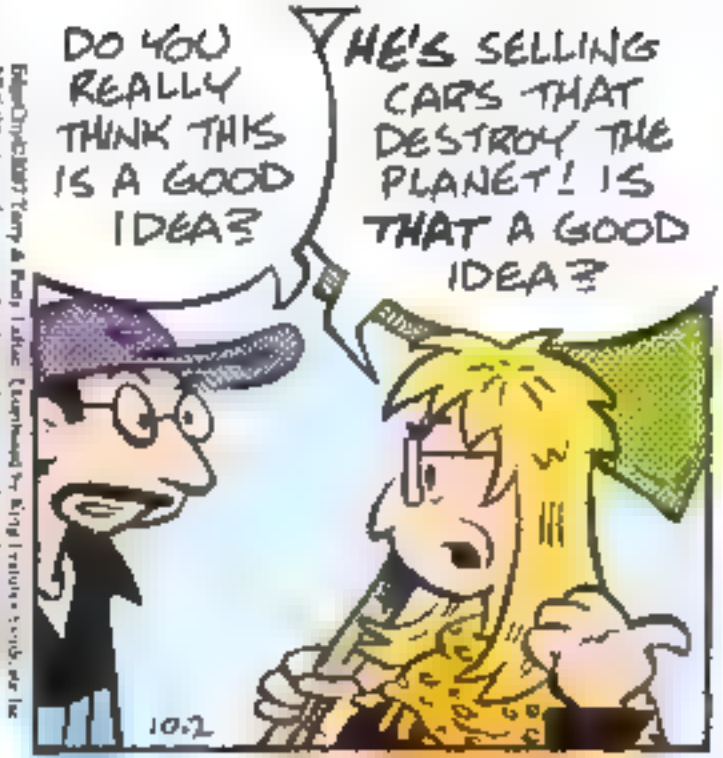
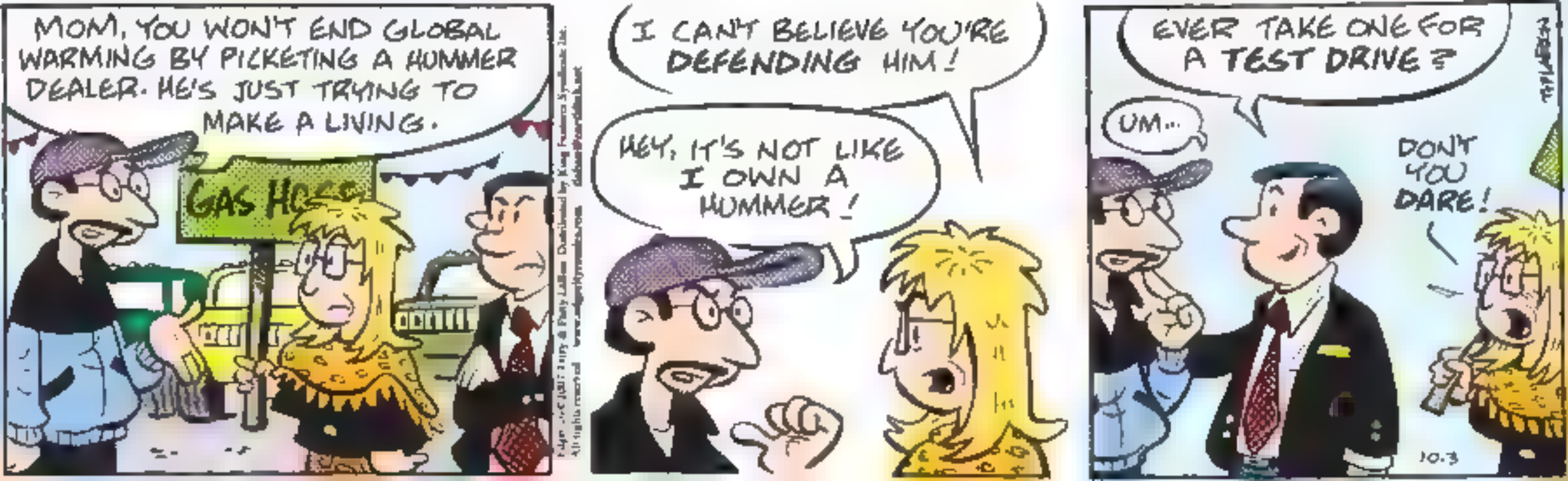
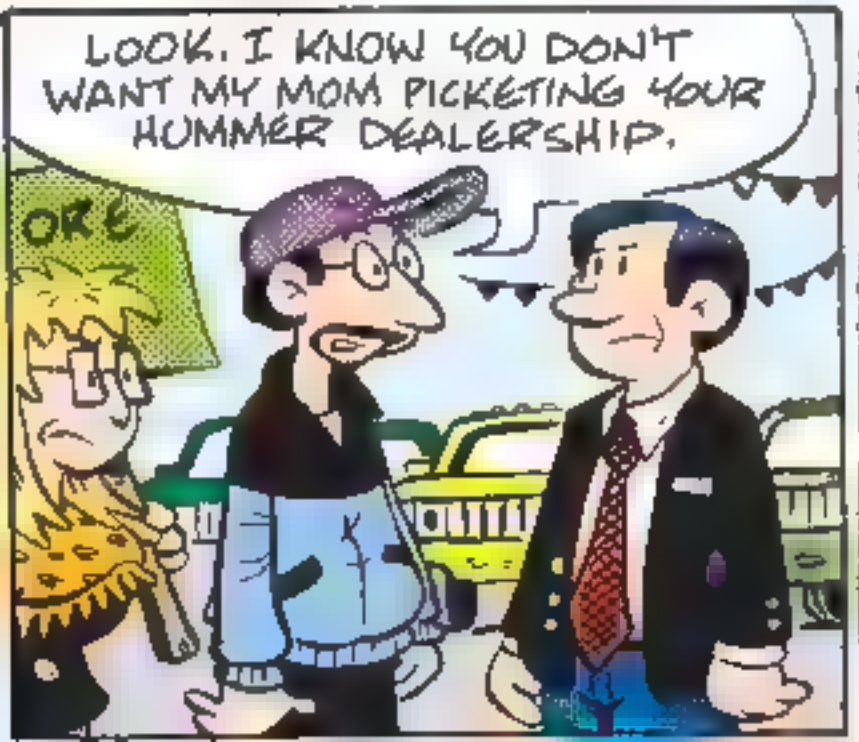
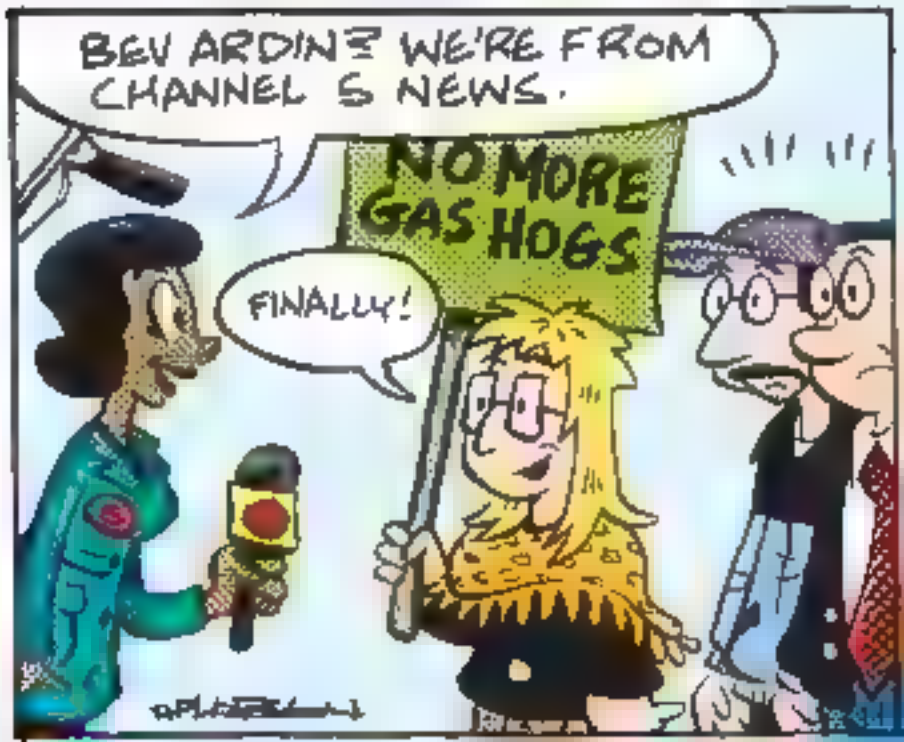



MOM, YOU WON'T END GLOBAL WARMING BY PICKETING A HUMMER DEALER. HE'S JUST TRYING TO MAKE A LIVING.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE DEFENDING HIM!
HEY, IT'S NOT LIKE I OWN A HUMMER!
EVER TAKE ONE FOR A TEST DRIVE?
UM...
DON'T YOU DARE!
10-3





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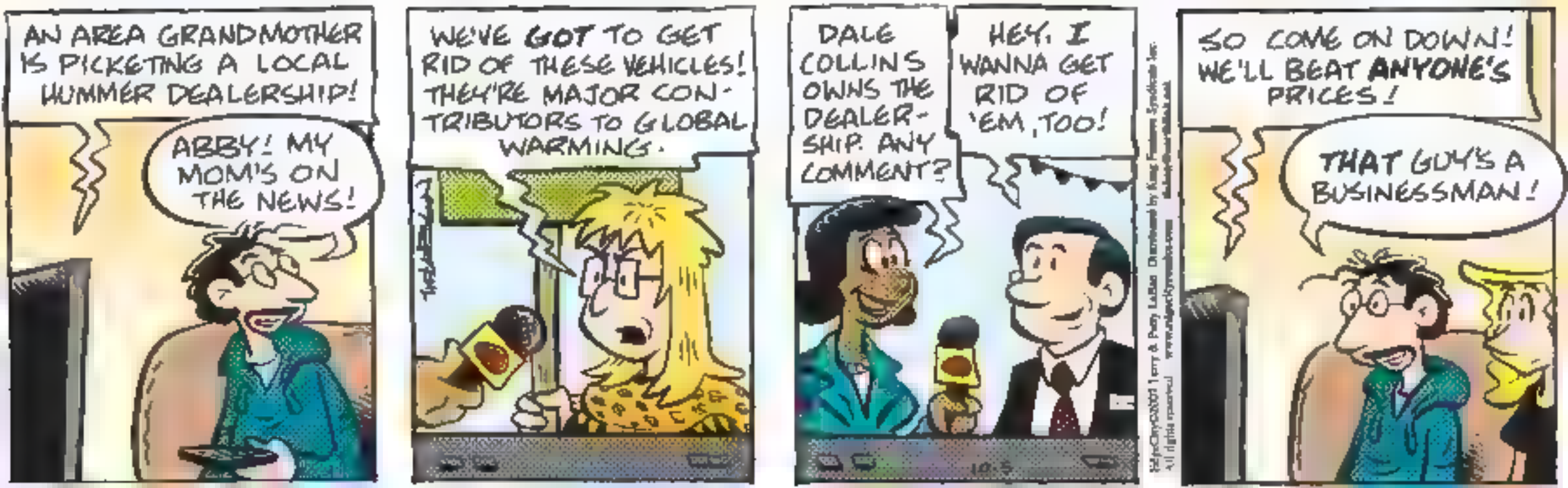
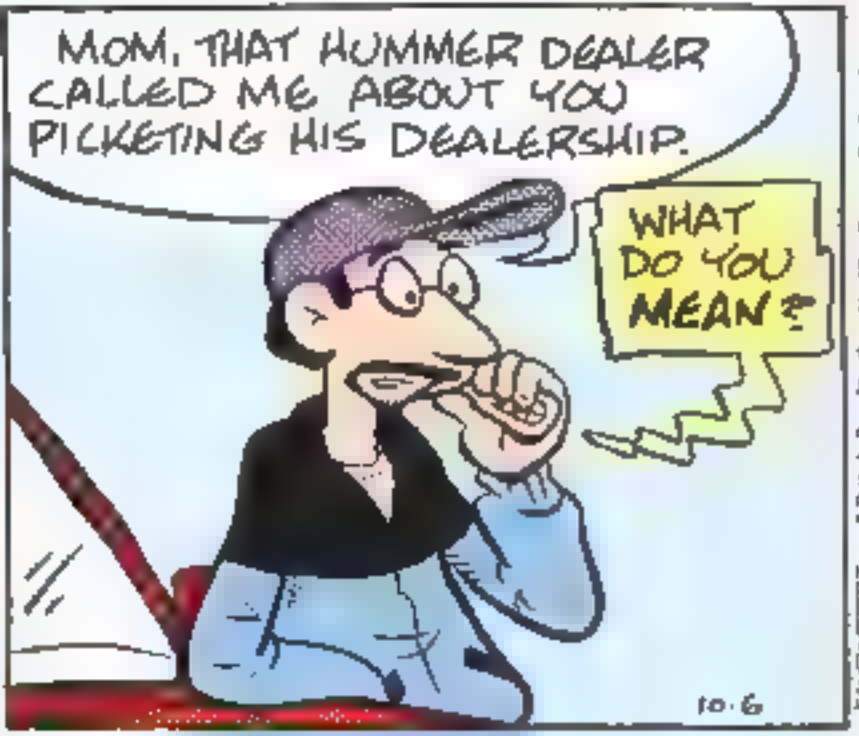

AN AREA GRANDMOTHER IS PICKETING A LOCAL HUMMER DEALERSHIP!
ABBY! MY MOM'S ON THE NEWS!
WE'VE GOT TO GET RID OF THESE VEHICLES! THEY'RE MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO GLOBAL WARMING.
DALE COLLINS OWNS THE DEALERSHIP. ANY COMMENT?
HEY, I WANNA GET RID OF 'EM, TOO!
SO COME ON DOWN! WE'LL BEAT ANYONE'S PRICES!
THAT GUY'S A BUSINESSMAN!



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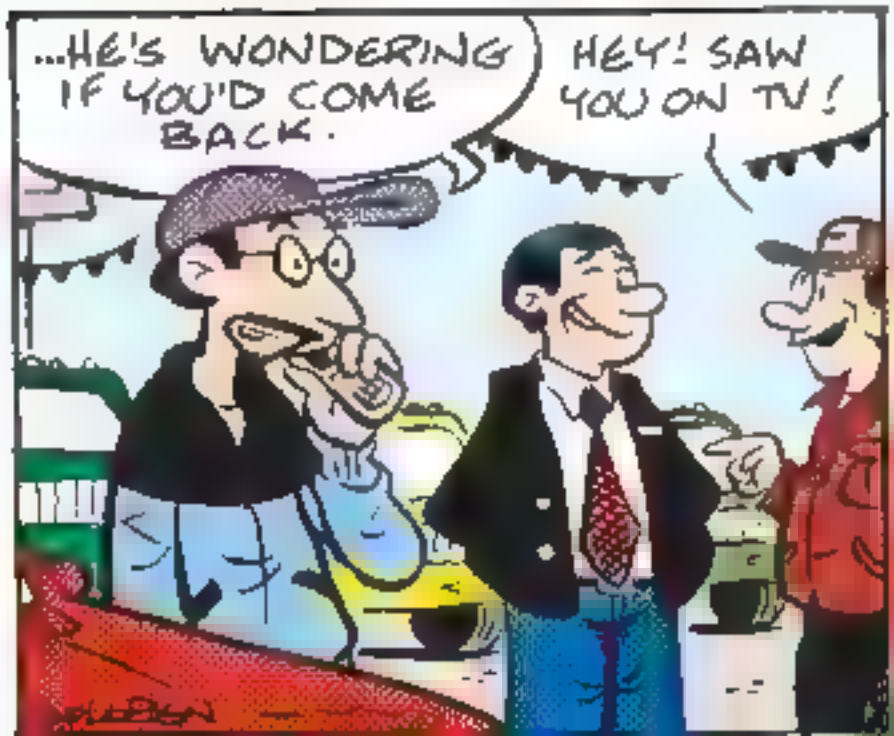
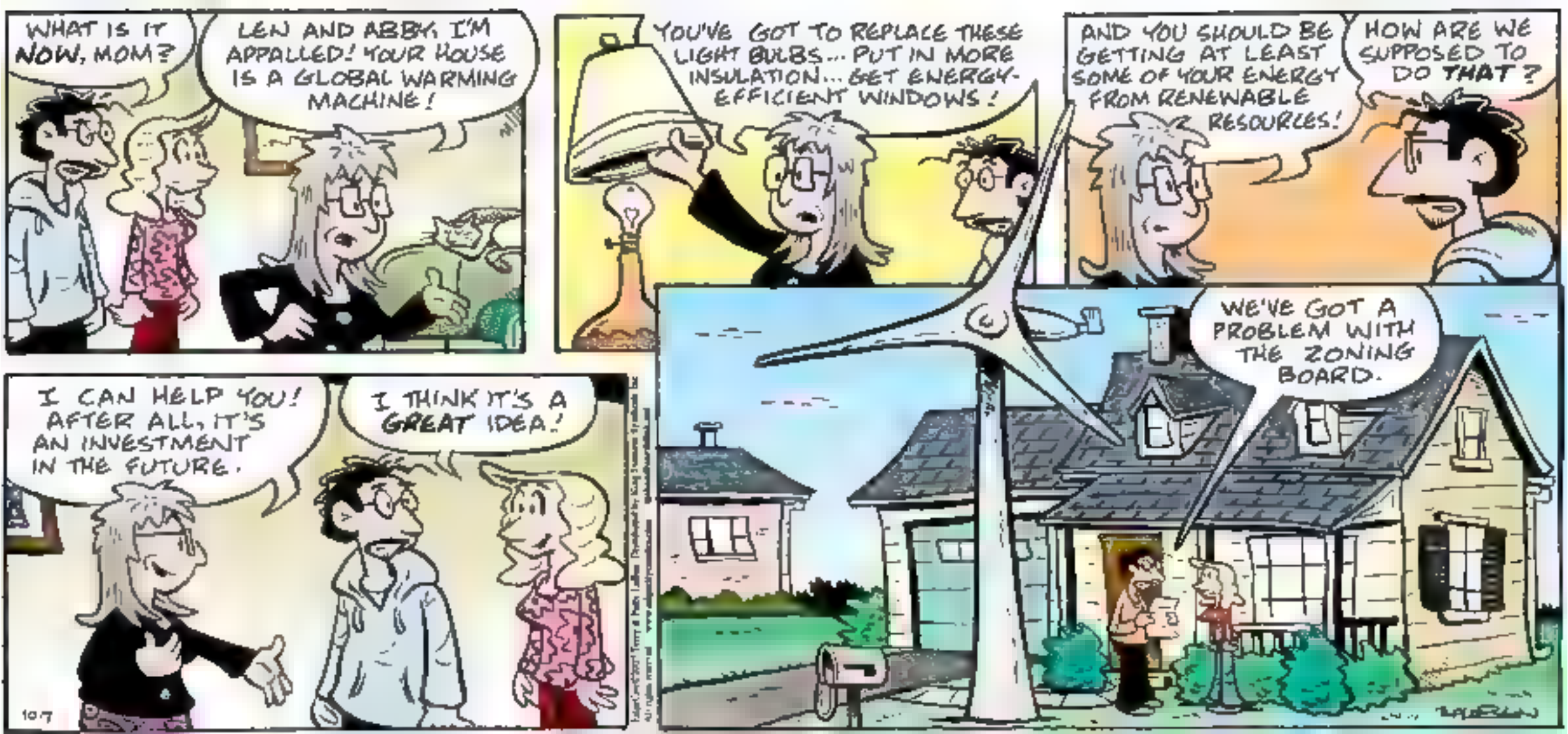



WHAT IS IT NOW, MOM?
LEN AND ABBY, I'M APPALLED! YOUR HOUSE IS A GLOBAL WARMING MACHINE!
YOU'VE GOT TO REPLACE THESE LIGHT BULBS... PUT IN MORE INSULATION... GET ENERGY-EFFICIENT WINDOWS!
AND YOU SHOULD BE GETTING AT LEAST SOME OF YOUR ENERGY FROM RENEWABLE RESOURCES!
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO THAT?
I CAN HELP YOU! AFTER ALL, IT'S AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE.
I THINK IT'S A GREAT IDEA!
WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM WITH THE ZONING BOARD.
10/7

HOW NICE! CAROLYN FROM MY BOOK GROUP INVITED ME TO A PARTY.

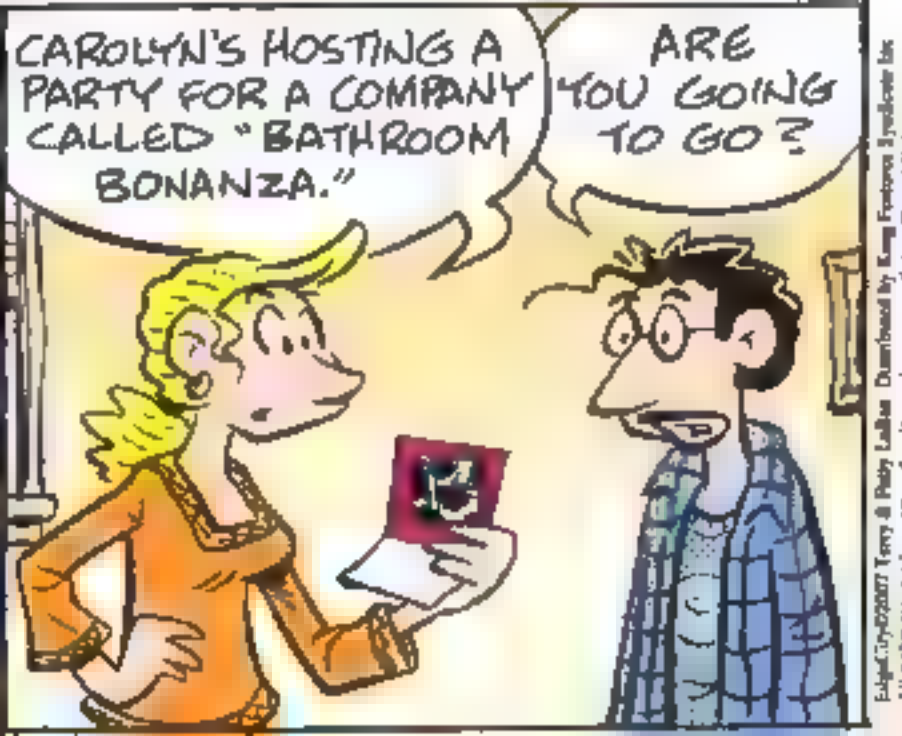
IT'S GOING TO BE A GIRLS' NIGHT OUT, WITH WINE AND CHEESE...

... AND A SHORT SALES PRESENTATION.
OH--IT'S ONE OF THOSE PARTIES.
10-8

THIS PARTY CAROLYN INVITED ME TO IS REALLY JUST AN OPPORTUNITY TO SELL STUFF!

A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE DOING THAT THESE DAYS.
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. AND IT MIGHT BE FUN, ANYWAY.
10-9

WHAT KIND OF THINGS ARE THEY SELLING?
THE COMPANY'S CALLED "BATHROOM BONANZA".



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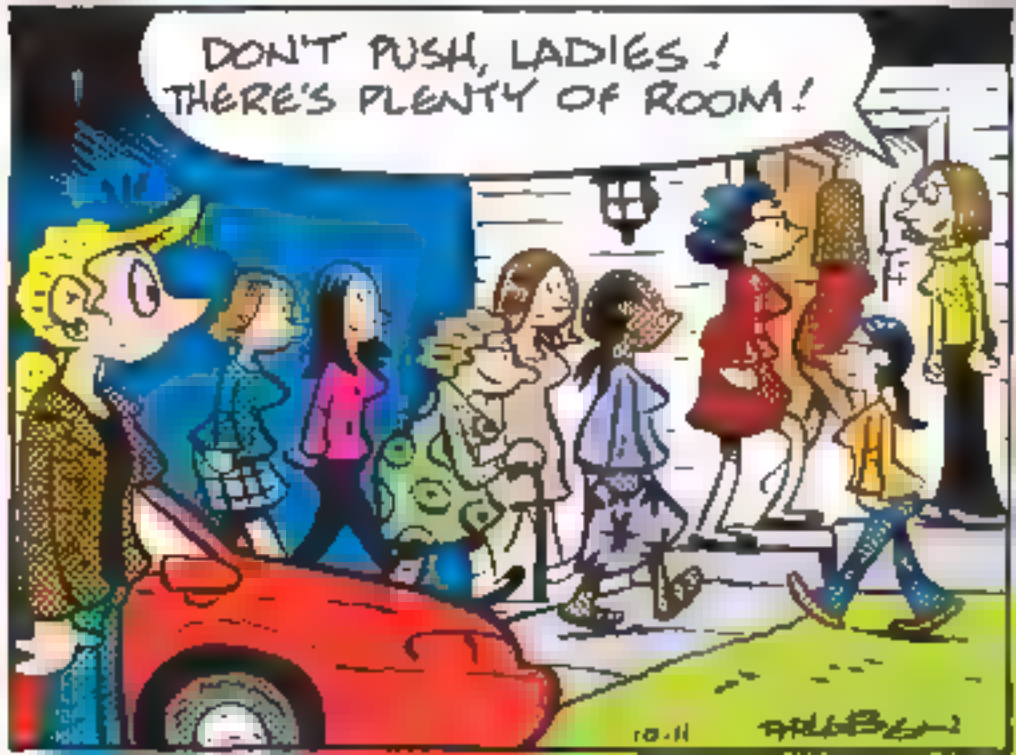

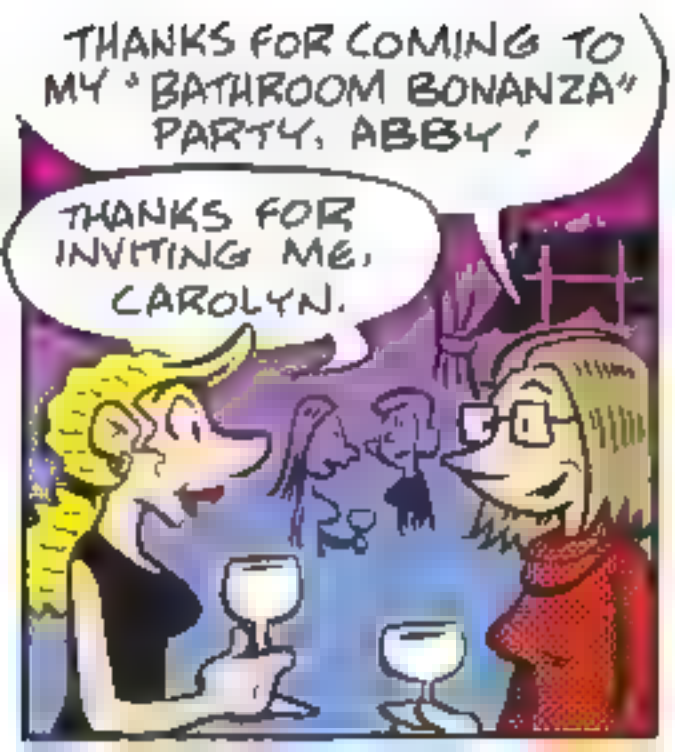

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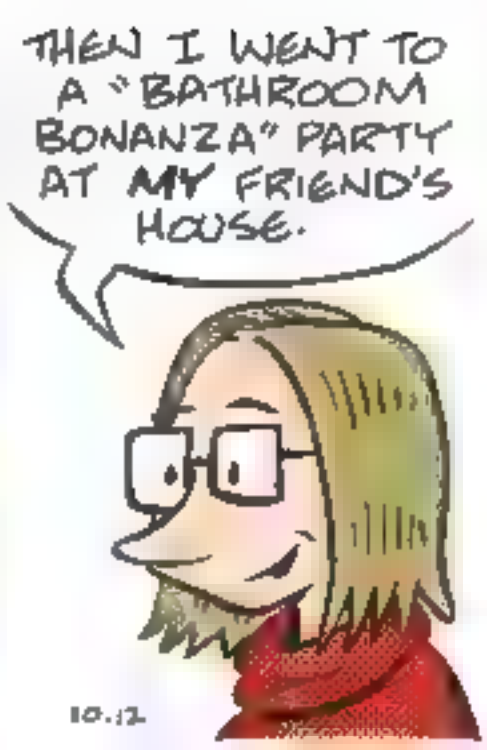

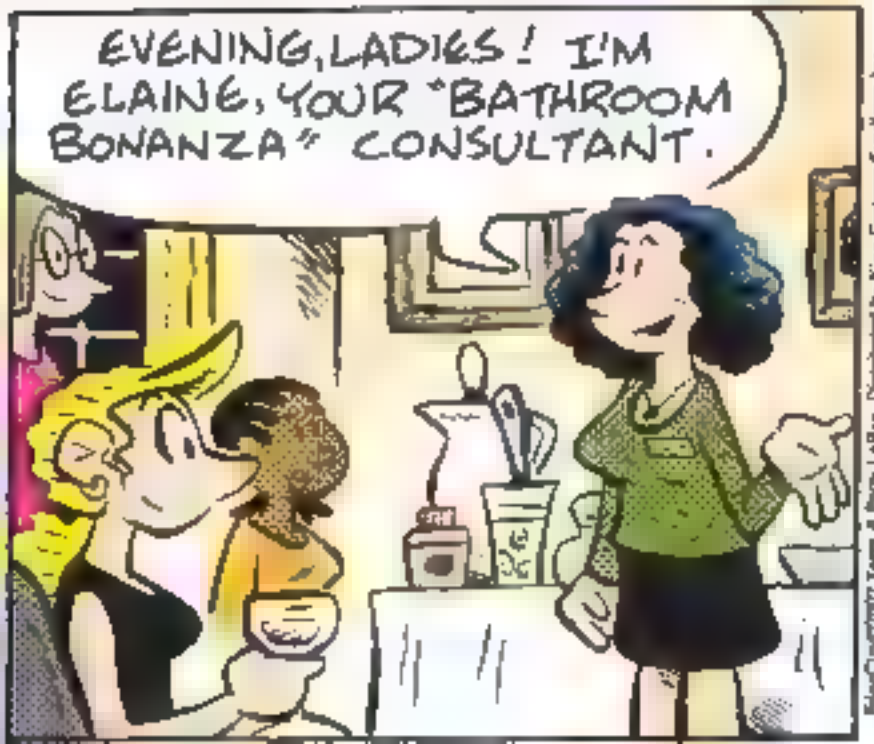

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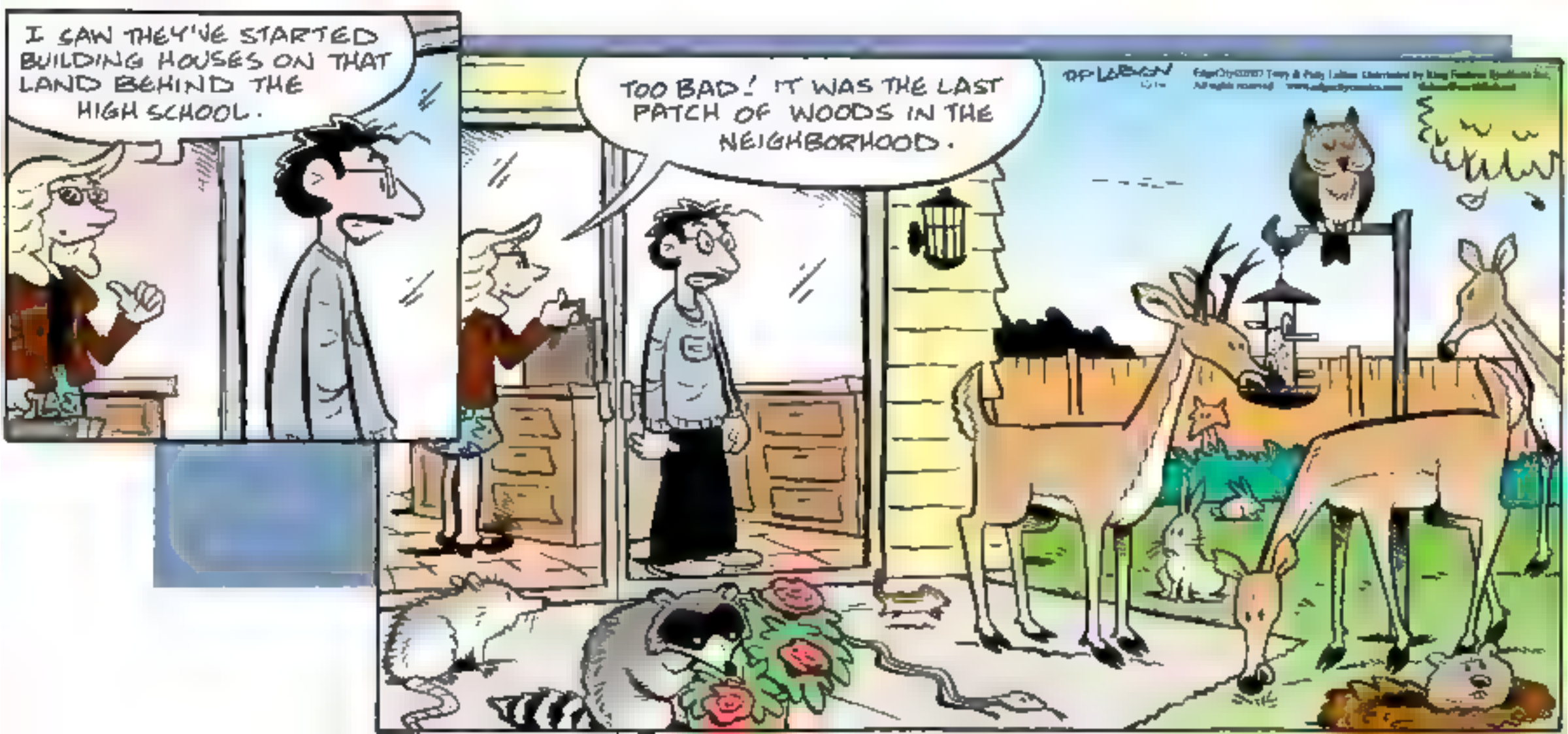
I SAW THEY'VE STARTED BUILDING HOUSES ON THAT LAND BEHIND THE HIGH SCHOOL.
TOO BAD! IT WAS THE LAST PATCH OF WOODS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

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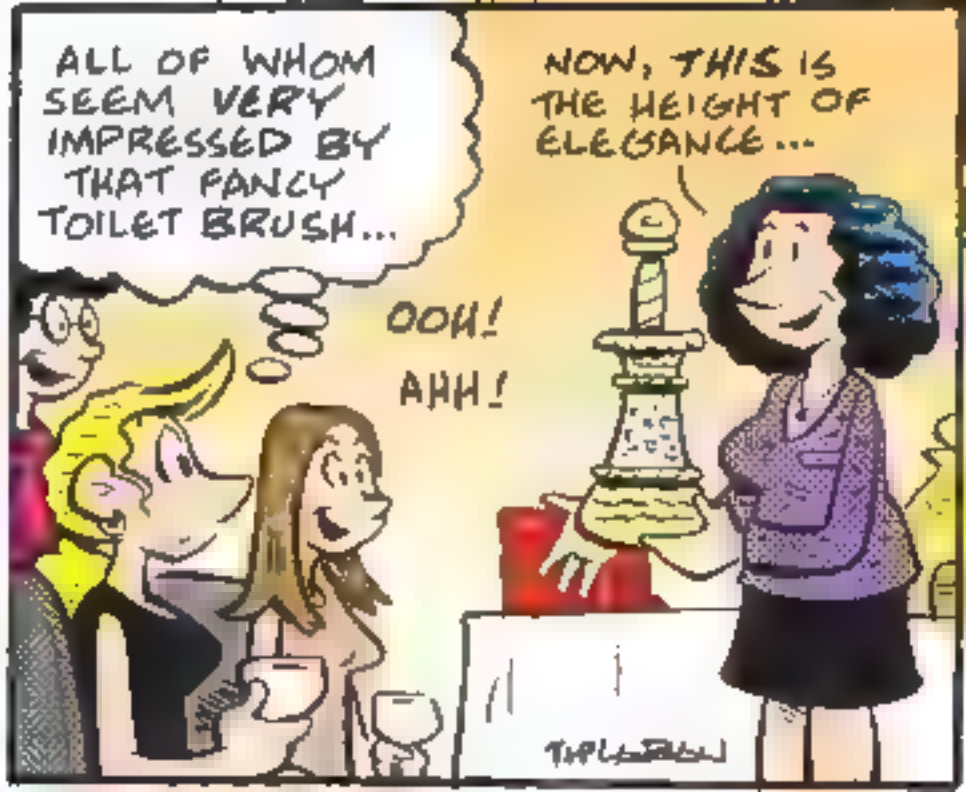
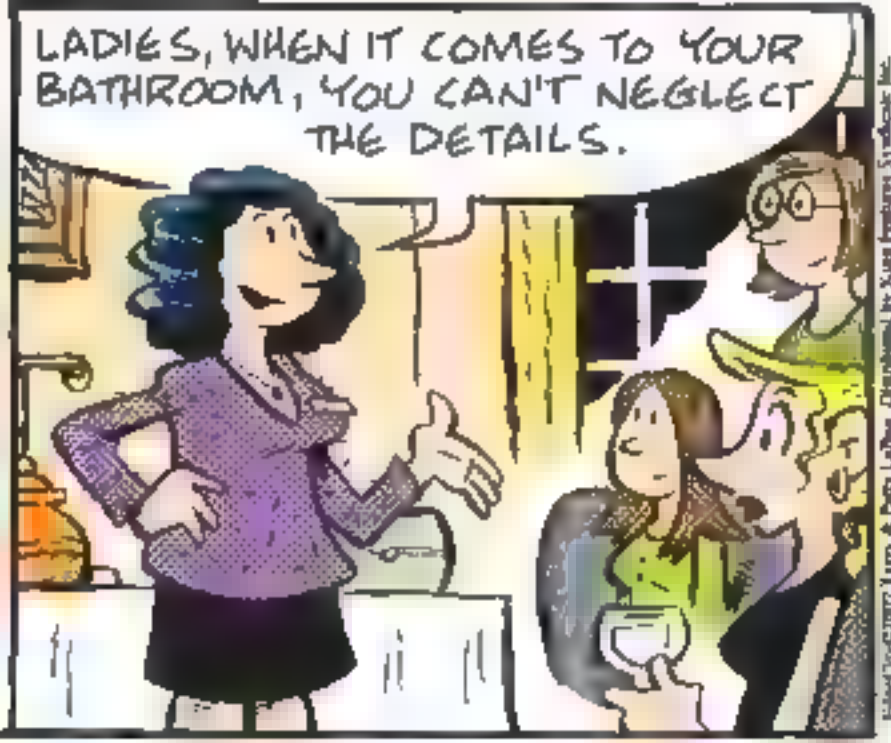



LADIES, WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR BATHROOM, YOU CAN'T NEGLECT THE DETAILS.

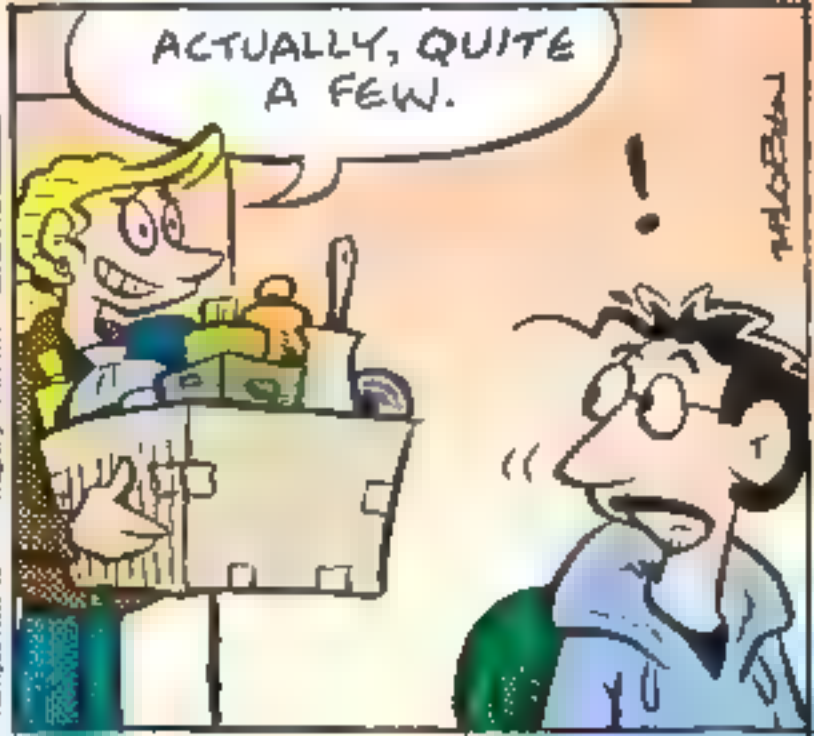
WILL YOUR GUESTS BE MORE IMPRESSED BY YOUR NASTY OLD PLUNGER, OR ONE WITH A HAND-CARVED MAHOGANY HANDLE?

IT'S SO NICE, SOME PEOPLE JUST BUY IT FOR DISPLAY!
STRANGE, BUT... I KIND OF WANT IT...
OOH!
AHH!

THAT "BATHROOM BONANZA" PRESENTATION WAS PRETTY INTERESTING.

BUT THE LAST THINGS I NEED TO SPEND MONEY ON ARE FANCY DOODADS FOR THE BATHROOM.
10-17

THAT'LL BE $152.25
YOU TAKE A CREDIT CARD?



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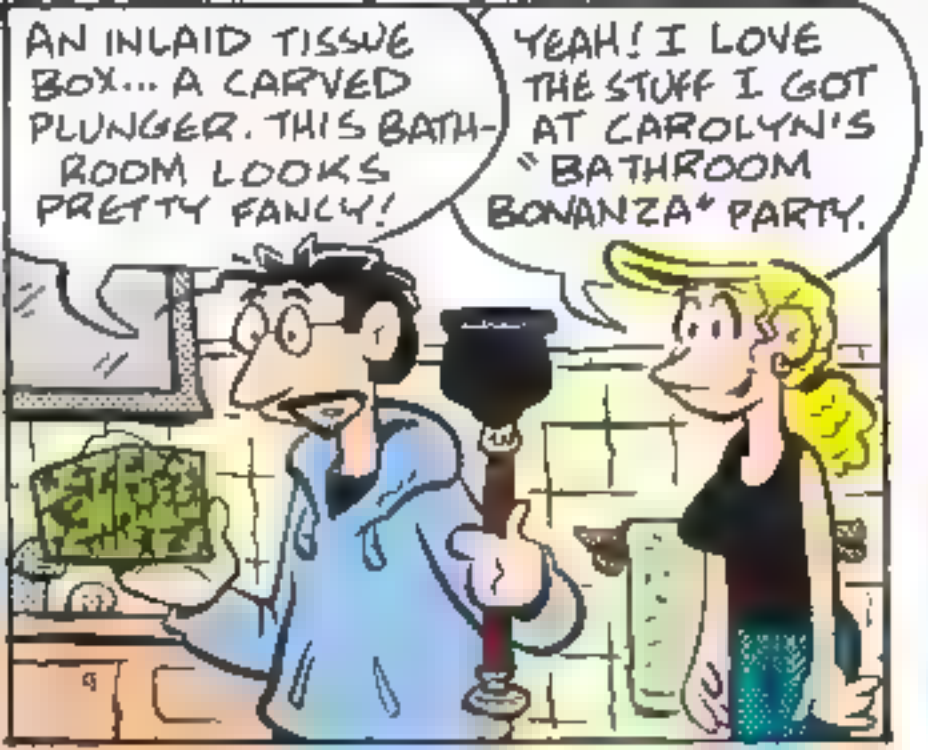

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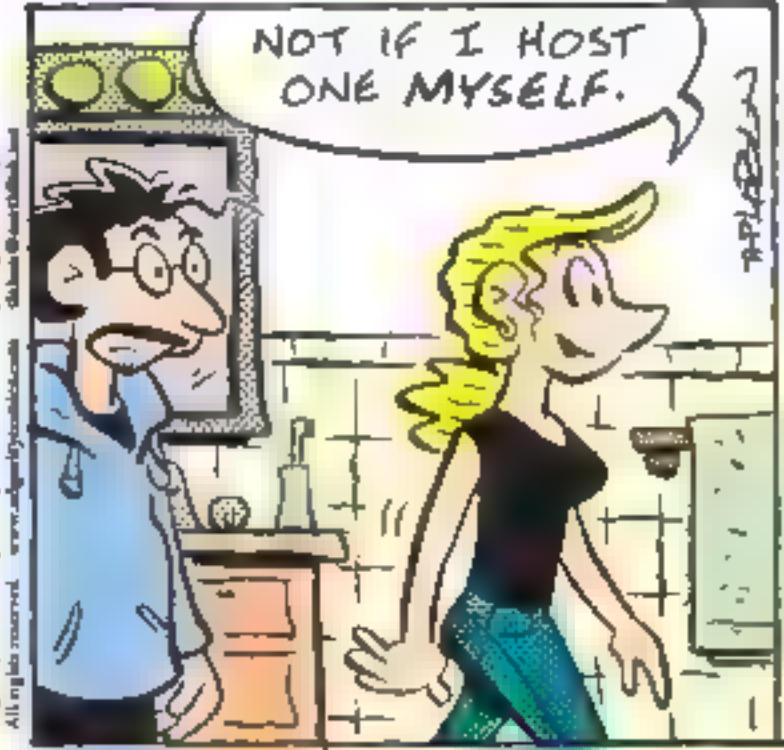
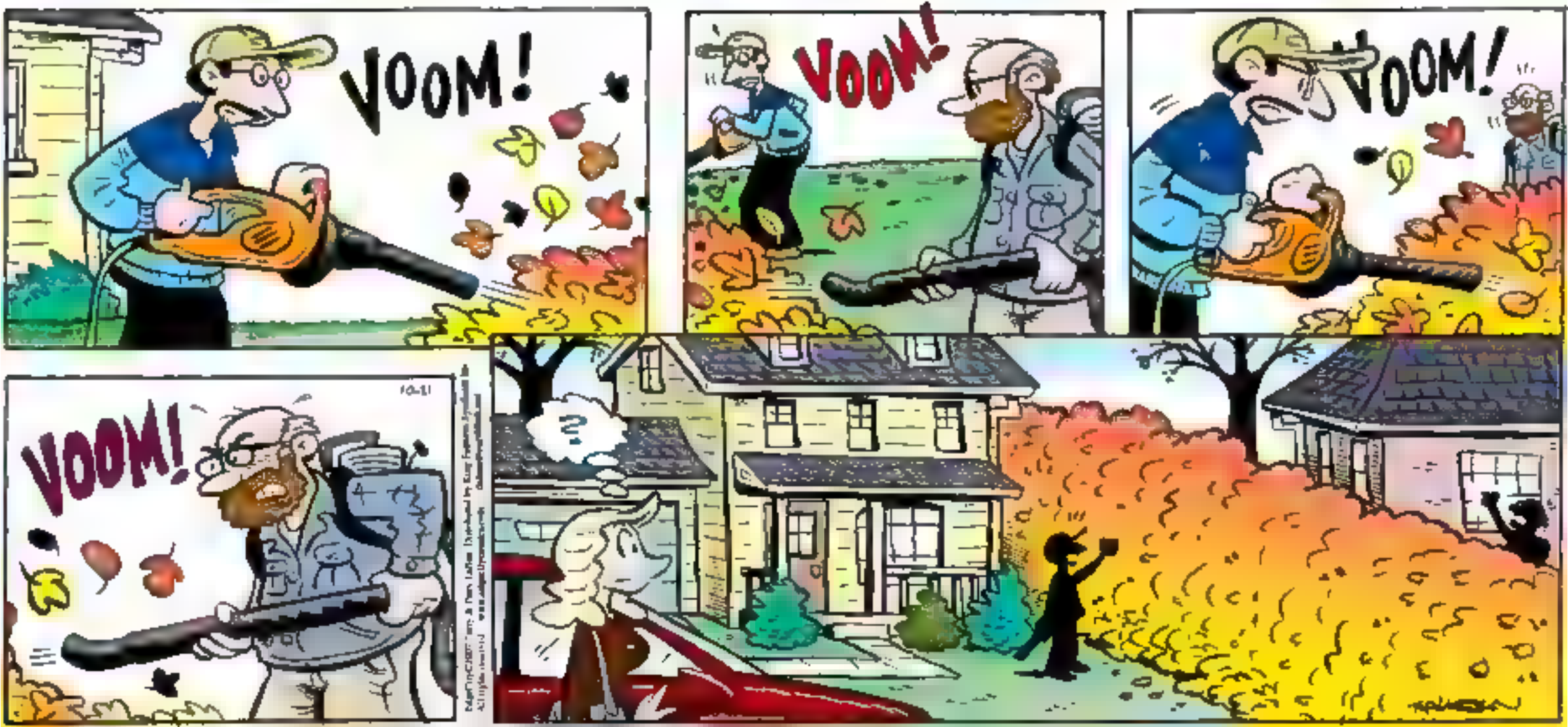
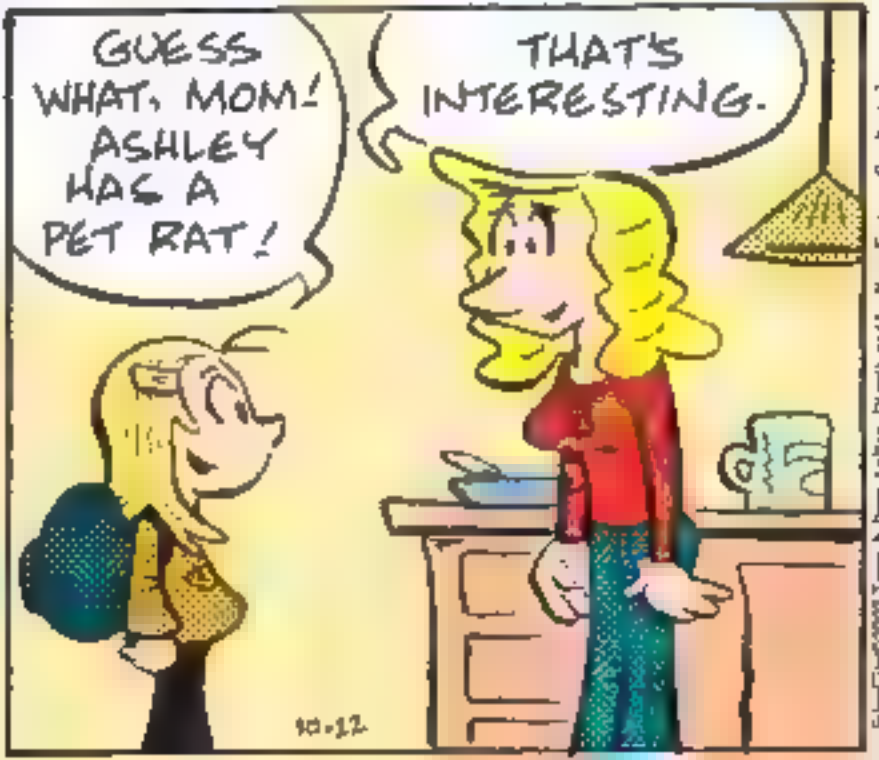


MY WIFE'S BECOME A BIG FAN OF THOSE PARTIES WHERE YOU SELL STUFF TO YOUR FRIENDS.
IT'S LIKE A GIRLS' NIGHT OUT, PLUS SHOPPING.
THEY'RE NOT JUST FOR WOMEN. THEY HAVE THEM FOR MEN, TOO.
10.20
IN FACT, I'M GONNA INVITE YOU GUYS TO ONE AT MY HOUSE!
"GET NAILED: ALL THE TOOLS YOU'LL EVER NEED"
COOL!


VOOM!
VOOM!
VOOM!
VOOM!
?



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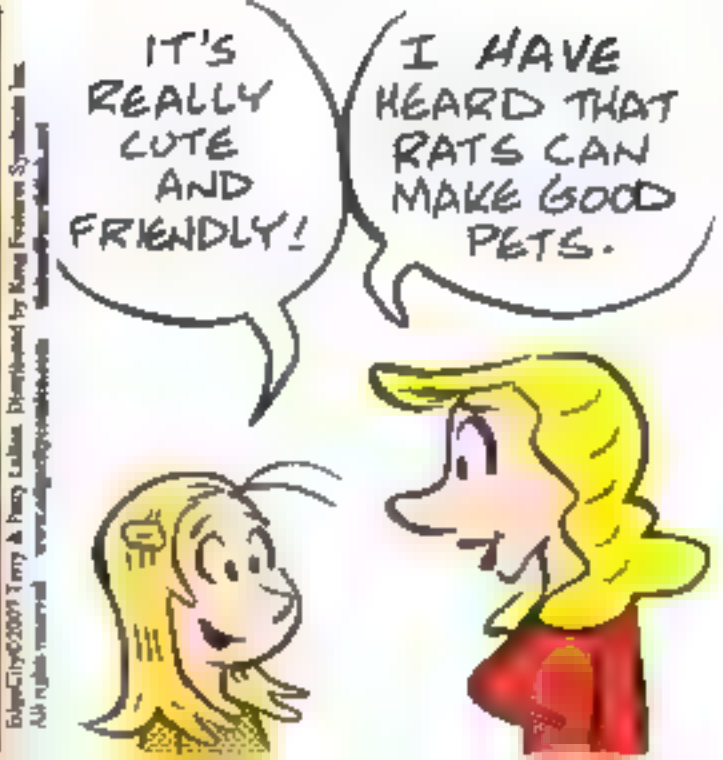
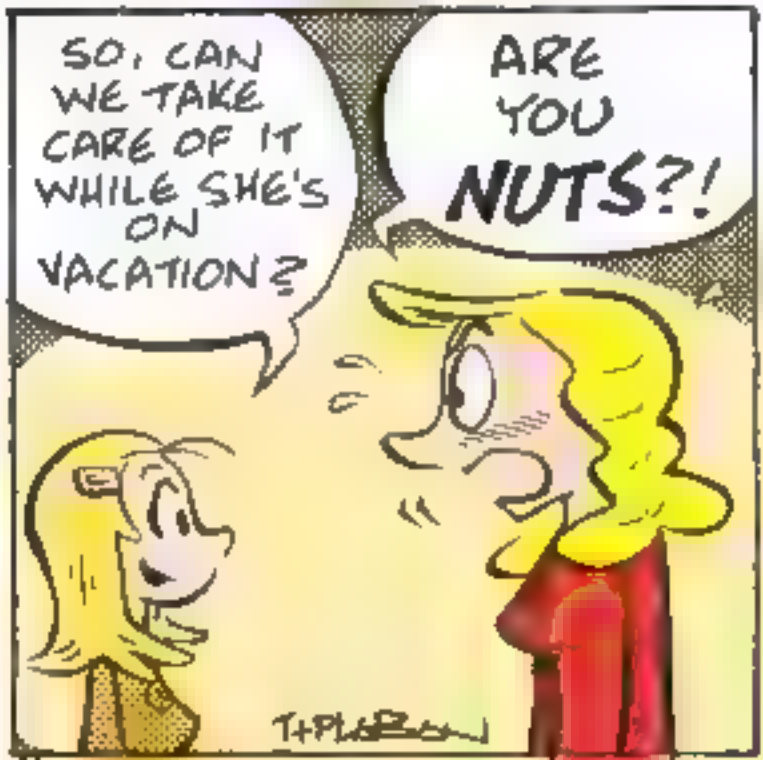
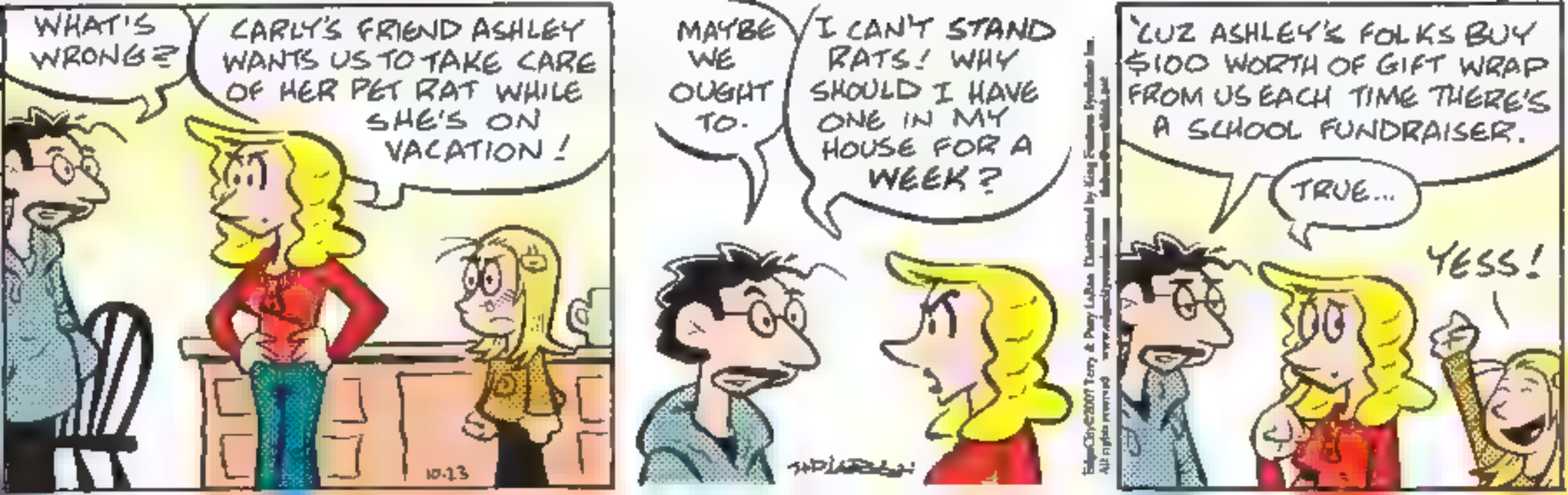
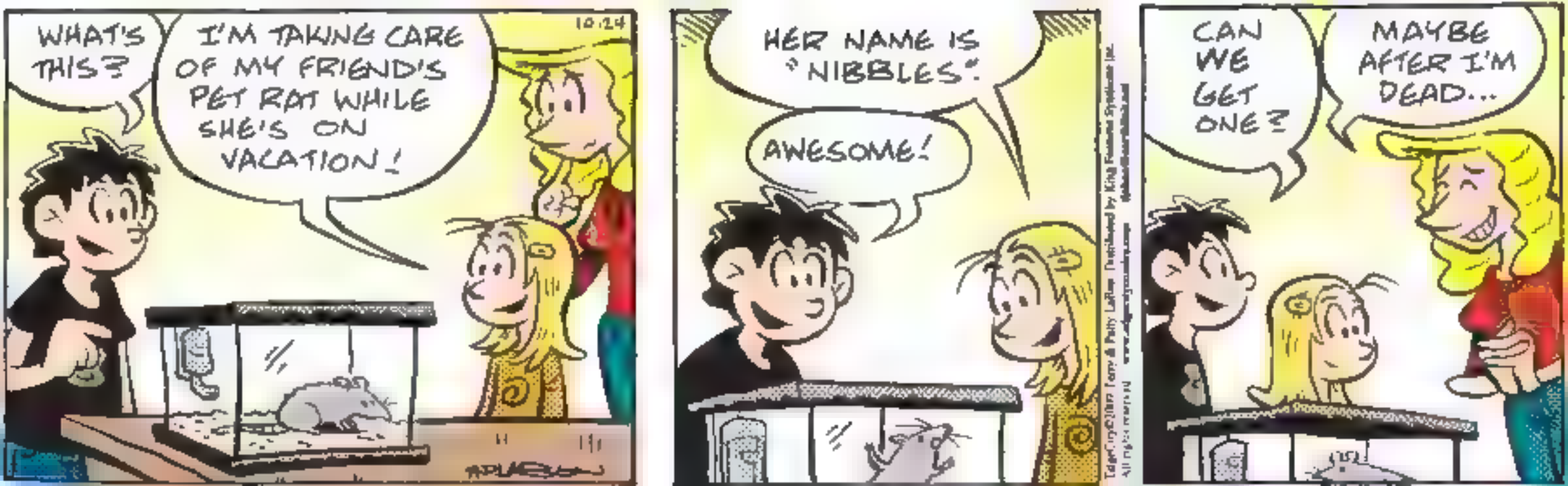
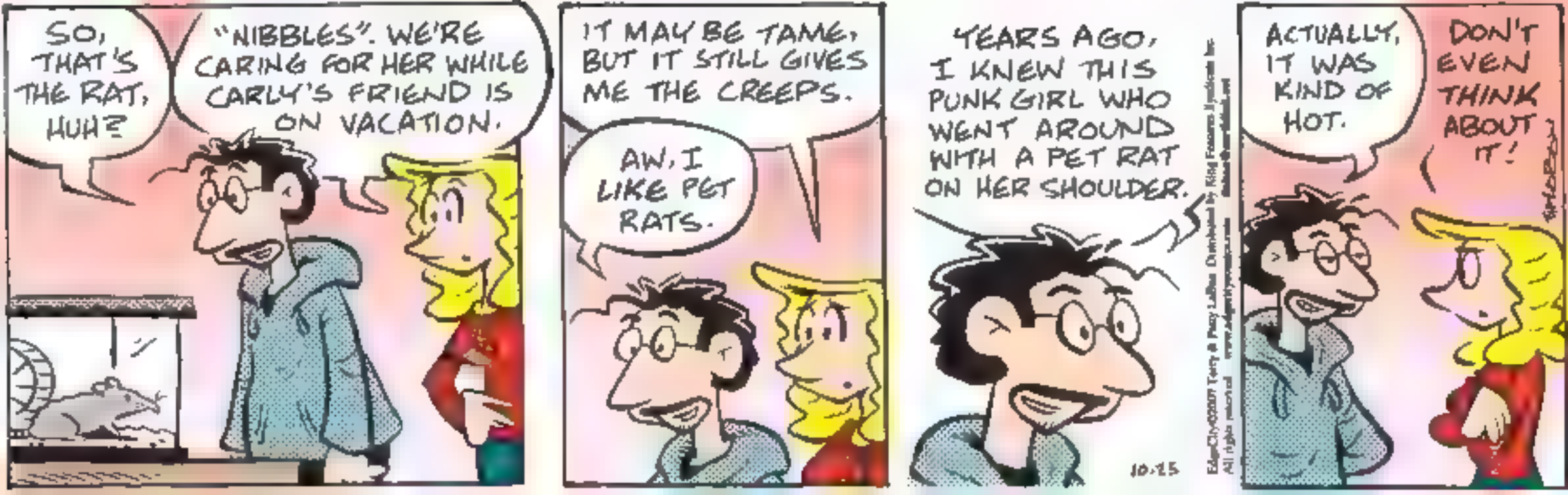
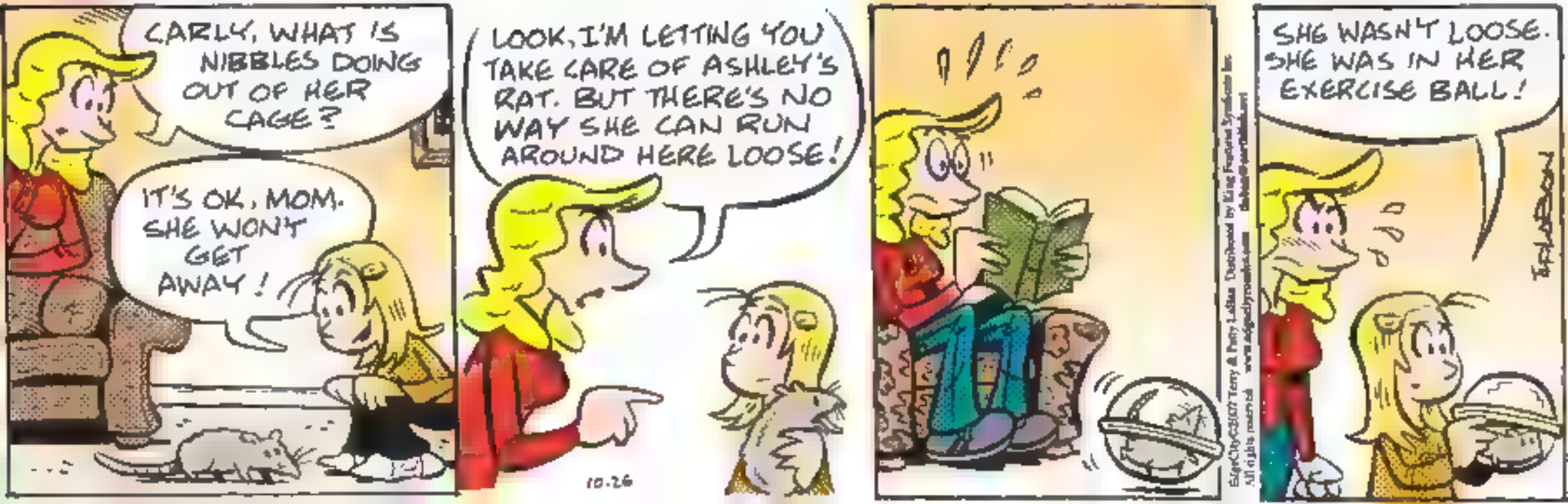


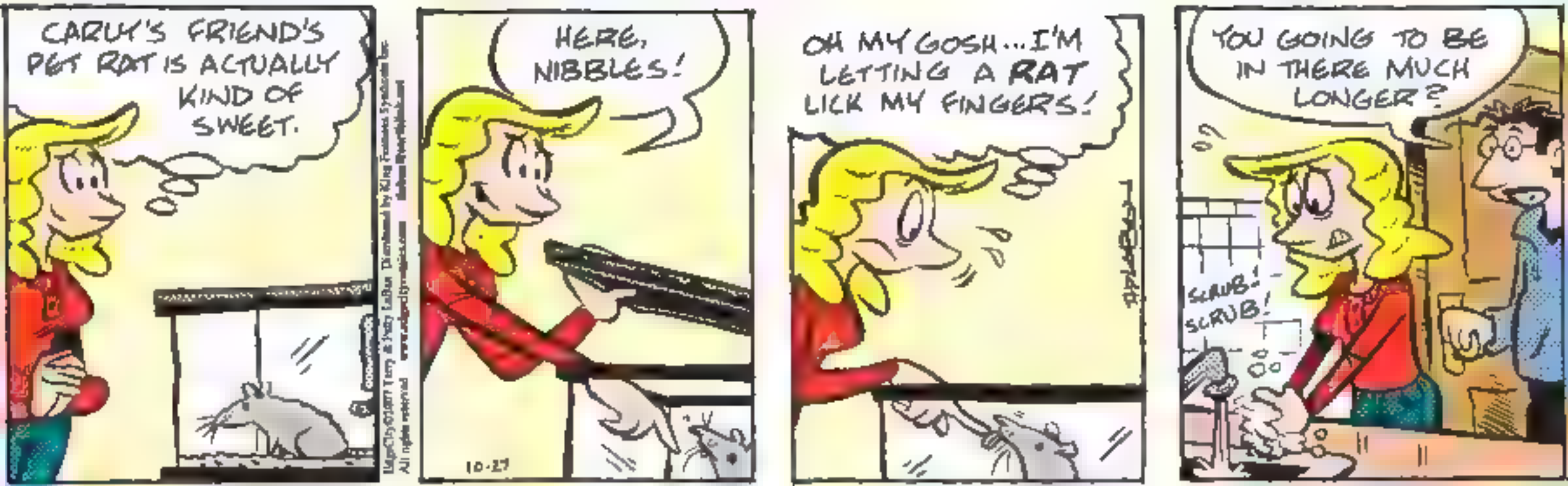


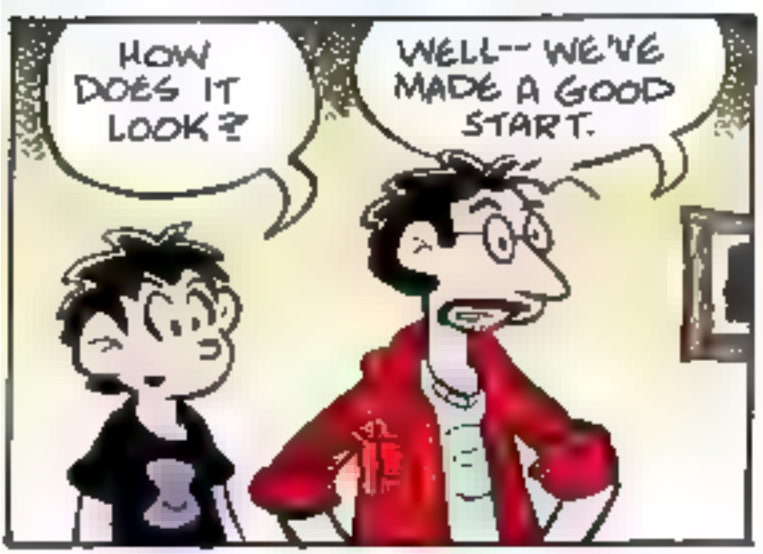

WHAT'S WRONG?
CARLY'S FRIEND ASHLEY WANTS US TO TAKE CARE OF HER PET RAT WHILE SHE'S ON VACATION!
10-13
MAYBE WE OUGHT TO.
I CAN'T STAND RATS! WHY SHOULD I HAVE ONE IN MY HOUSE FOR A WEEK?
'CUZ ASHLEY'S FOLKS BUY $100 WORTH OF GIFT WRAP FROM US EACH TIME THERE'S A SCHOOL FUNDRAISER.
TRUE...
YESS!


10.24
WHAT'S THIS?
I'M TAKING CARE OF MY FRIEND'S PET RAT WHILE SHE'S ON VACATION!
HER NAME IS "NIBBLES".
AWESOME!
CAN WE GET ONE?
MAYBE AFTER I'M DEAD...


SO, THAT'S THE RAT, HUH?
"NIBBLES". WE'RE CARING FOR HER WHILE CARLY'S FRIEND IS ON VACATION.
IT MAY BE TAME, BUT IT STILL GIVES ME THE CREEPS.
AW, I LIKE PET RATS.
YEARS AGO, I KNEW THIS PUNK GIRL WHO WENT AROUND WITH A PET RAT ON HER SHOULDER.
10-25
ACTUALLY, IT WAS KIND OF HOT.
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!


CARLY, WHAT IS NIBBLES DOING OUT OF HER CAGE?
IT'S OK, MOM. SHE WON'T GET AWAY!
LOOK, I'M LETTING YOU TAKE CARE OF ASHLEY'S RAT. BUT THERE'S NO WAY SHE CAN RUN AROUND HERE LOOSE!
10-26
SHE WASN'T LOOSE. SHE WAS IN HER EXERCISE BALL!

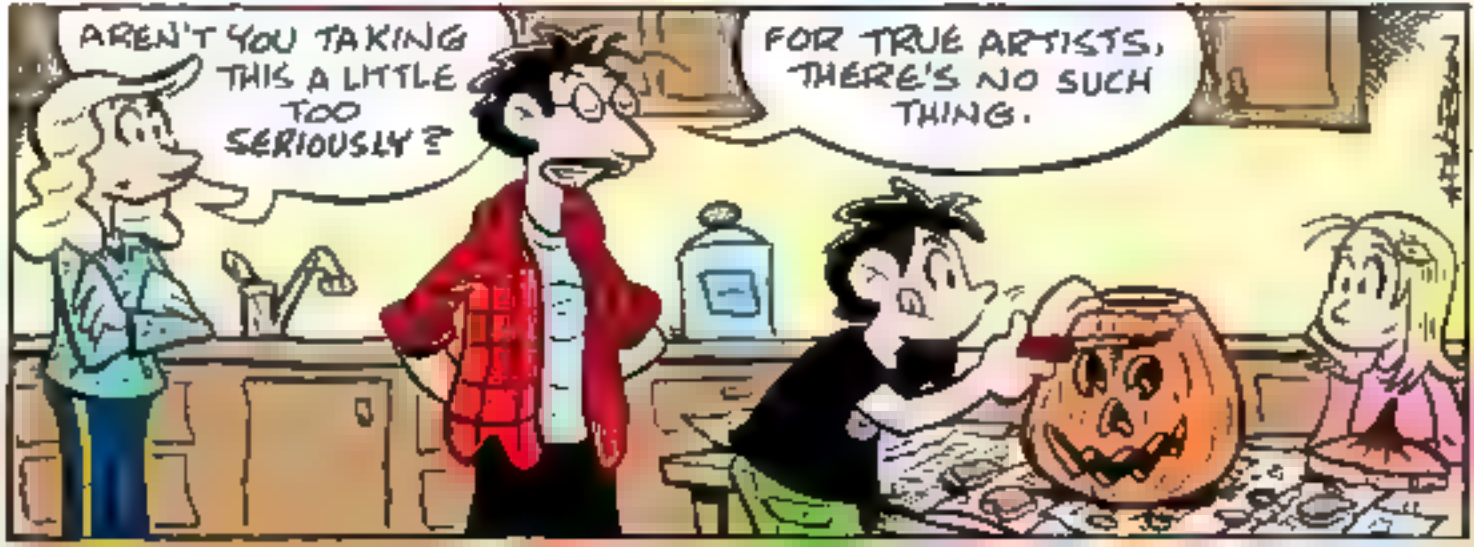

CARLY'S FRIEND'S PET RAT IS ACTUALLY KIND OF SWEET.
HERE, NIBBLES!
10-27
OH MY GOSH...I'M LETTING A RAT LICK MY FINGERS!
YOU GOING TO BE IN THERE MUCH LONGER?
SCRUB! SCRUB!

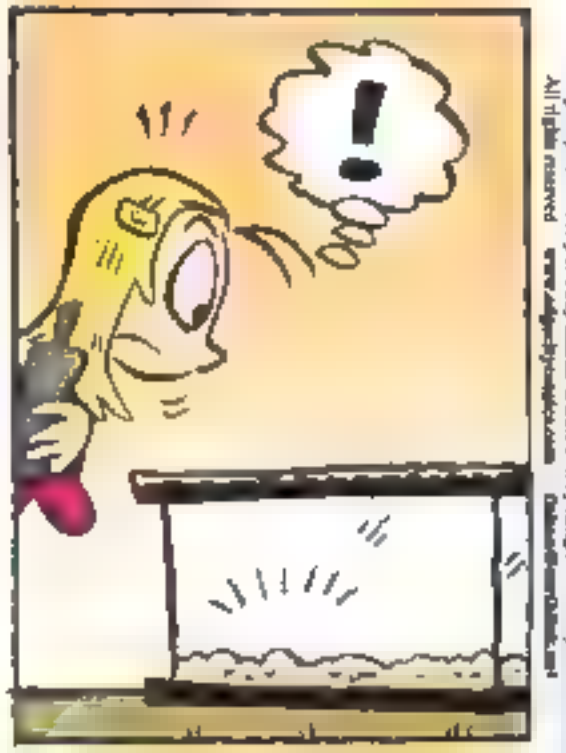

HOW DOES IT LOOK?
WELL-- WE'VE MADE A GOOD START.

BUT WE NEED TO THINK MORE ABOUT THE MESSAGE OF THIS PIECE. WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO SAY?

IT'S 'SPOSED TO BE SCARY, I GUESS. BUT FUNNY, TOO.
SO, HOW CAN WE BEST COMMUNICATE THAT WITHOUT RELYING ON CLICHES?

WIGGLY EYEBROWS?
HMM... IT COULD WORK.
10.28


AREN'T YOU TAKING THIS A LITTLE TOO SERIOUSLY?
FOR TRUE ARTISTS, THERE'S NO SUCH THING.



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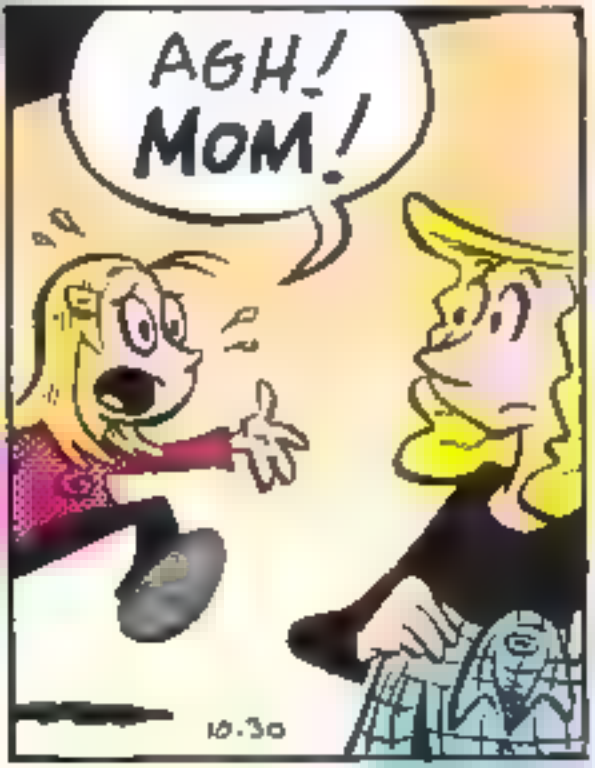

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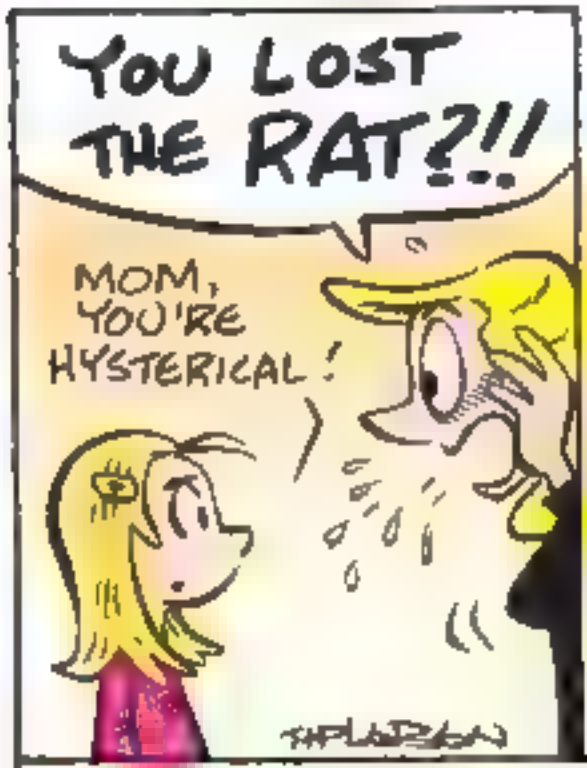
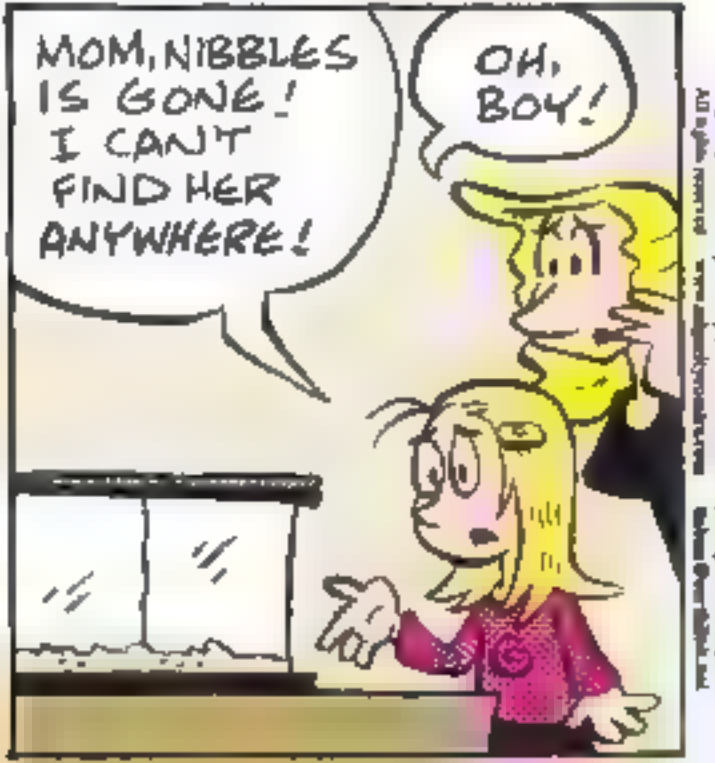
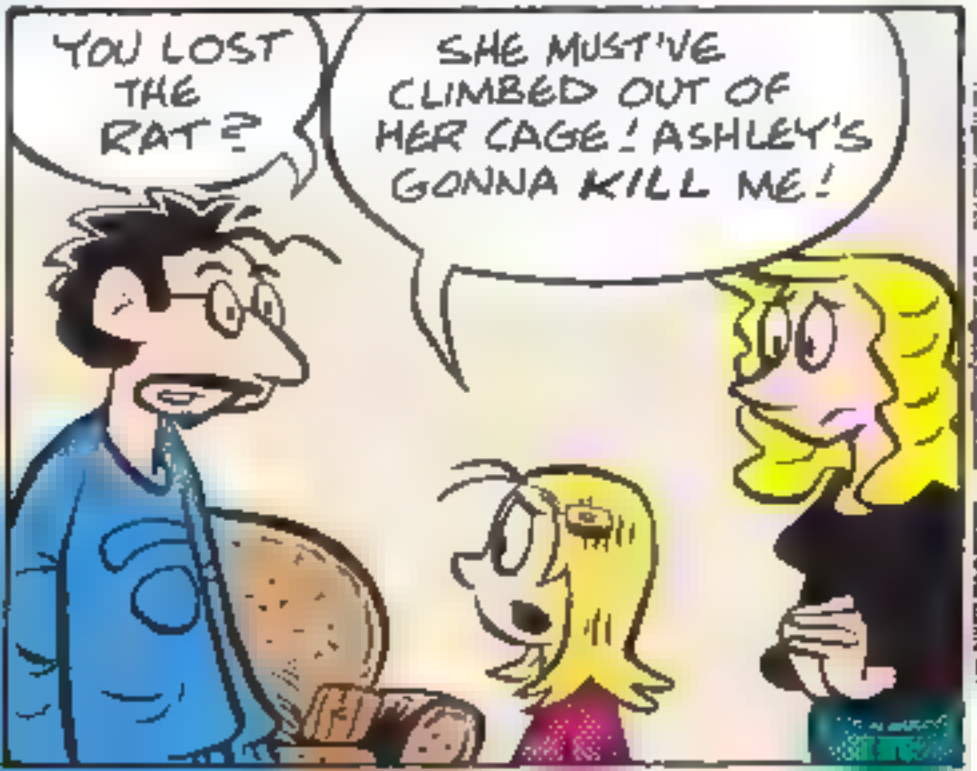


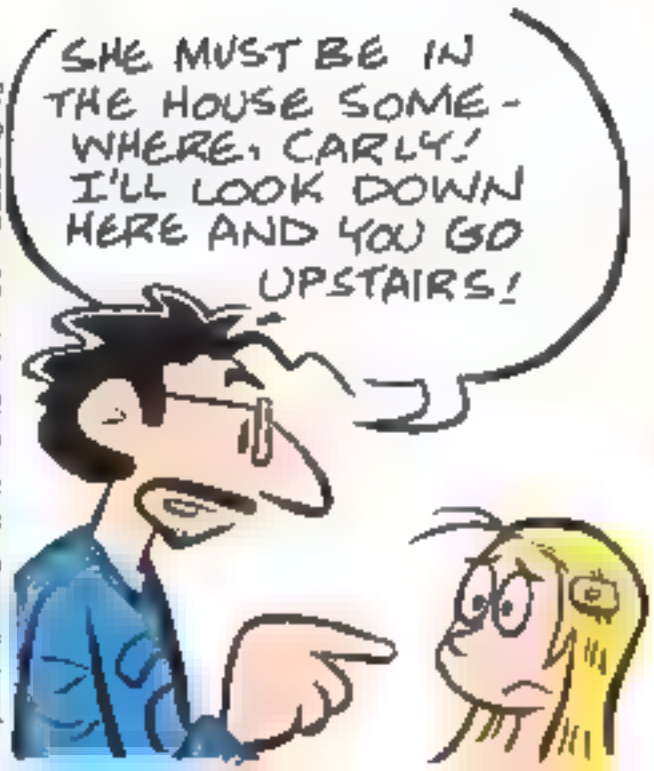

MOM, NIBBLES IS GONE! I CAN'T FIND HER ANYWHERE!
OH, BOY!

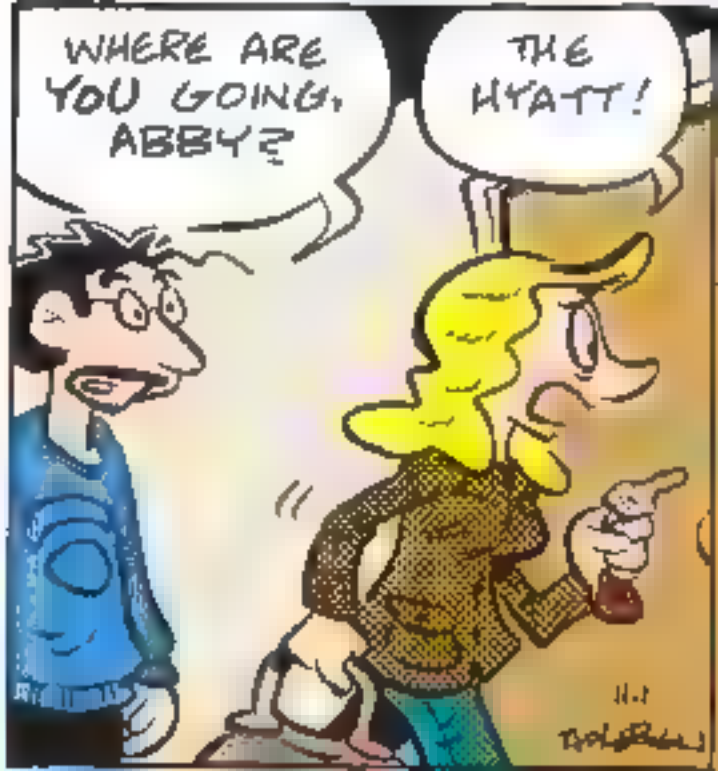
ASHLEY LOVES THAT RAT! WHEN SHE GETS BACK FROM VACATION, SHE'LL KILL ME!
THAT'S NOT FOR A WEEK, HONEY.
10/31

I'M SURE NIBBLES WILL TURN UP BEFORE THEN. LET'S JUST KEEP CALM, OK?

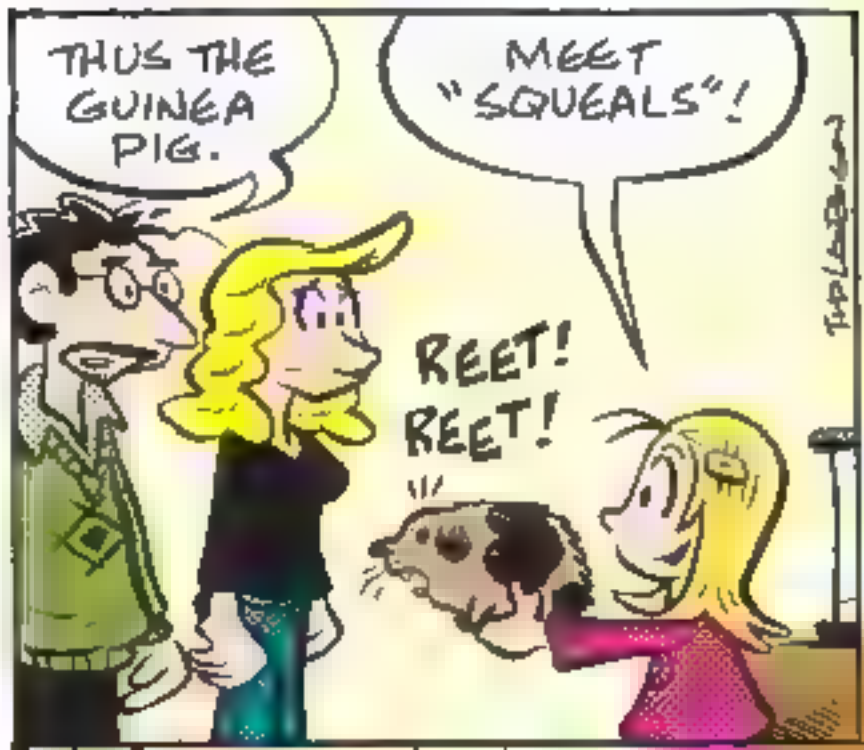
LET ME GUESS -- THE RAT GOT AWAY.


YOU LOST THE RAT?
SHE MUST'VE CLIMBED OUT OF HER CAGE! ASHLEY'S GONNA KILL ME!


SHE MUST BE IN THE HOUSE SOMEWHERE, CARLY! I'LL LOOK DOWN HERE AND YOU GO UPSTAIRS!


WHERE ARE YOU GOING, ABBY?
THE HYATT!

HERE, NIBBLES!
IT'S 11:00. MAYBE WE SHOULD CALL IT A NIGHT!
I CAN'T SLEEP WITH A RAT LOOSE IN THE HOUSE!
WELL, I'LL KEEP LOOKING WHILE YOU PUT CARLY TO BED.
11.2
YAAGH!!
MOM FOUND NIBBLES!



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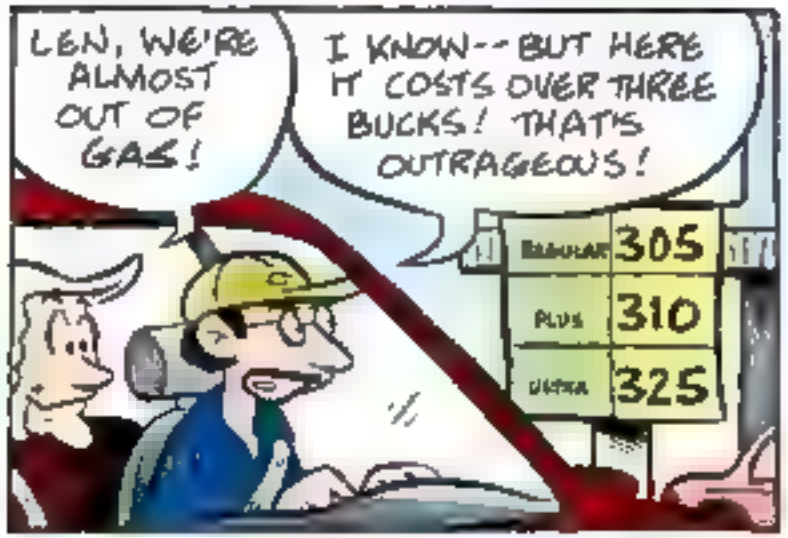
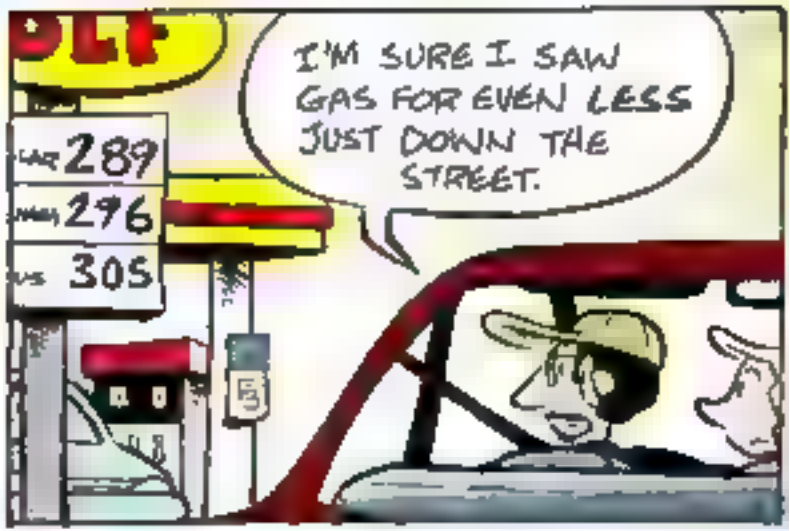
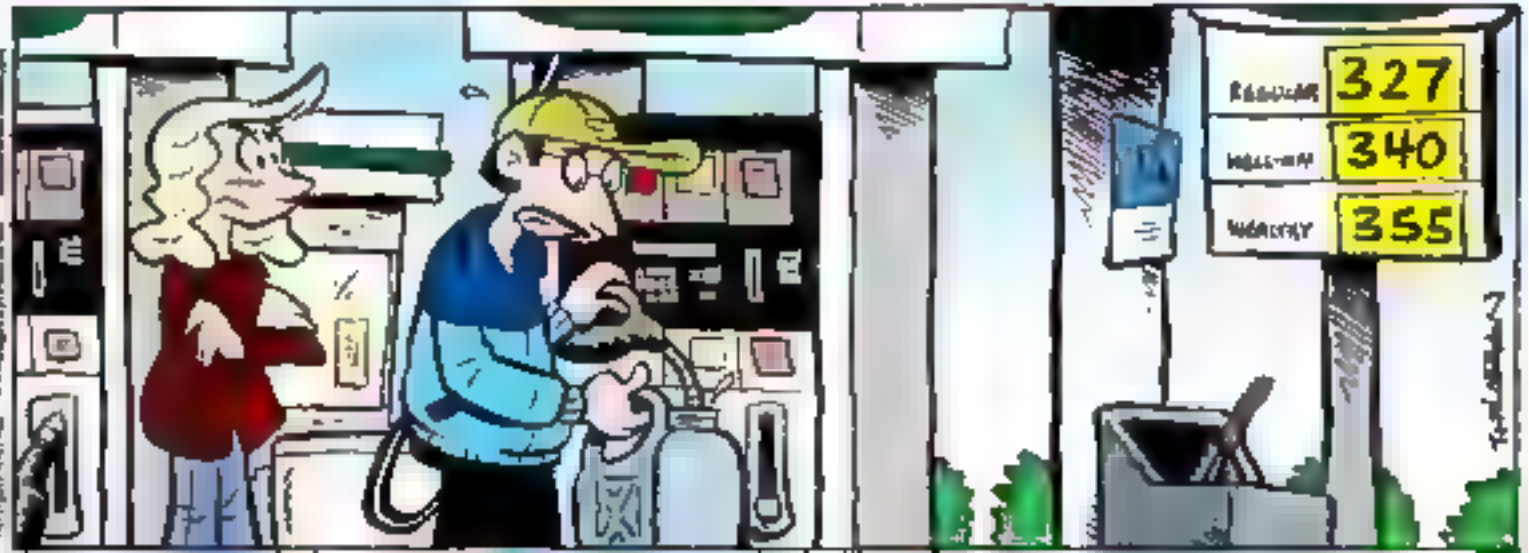

LEN, WE'RE ALMOST OUT OF GAS!
I KNOW--BUT HERE IT COSTS OVER THREE BUCKS! THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS!
305
310
325

THIS ONE'S A LITTLE BETTER. BUT IT'S STILL TOO HIGH.
299
312
330


I'M SURE I SAW GAS FOR EVEN LESS JUST DOWN THE STREET.
289
296
305

UH-OH!
SPUT! SPUT!


327
340
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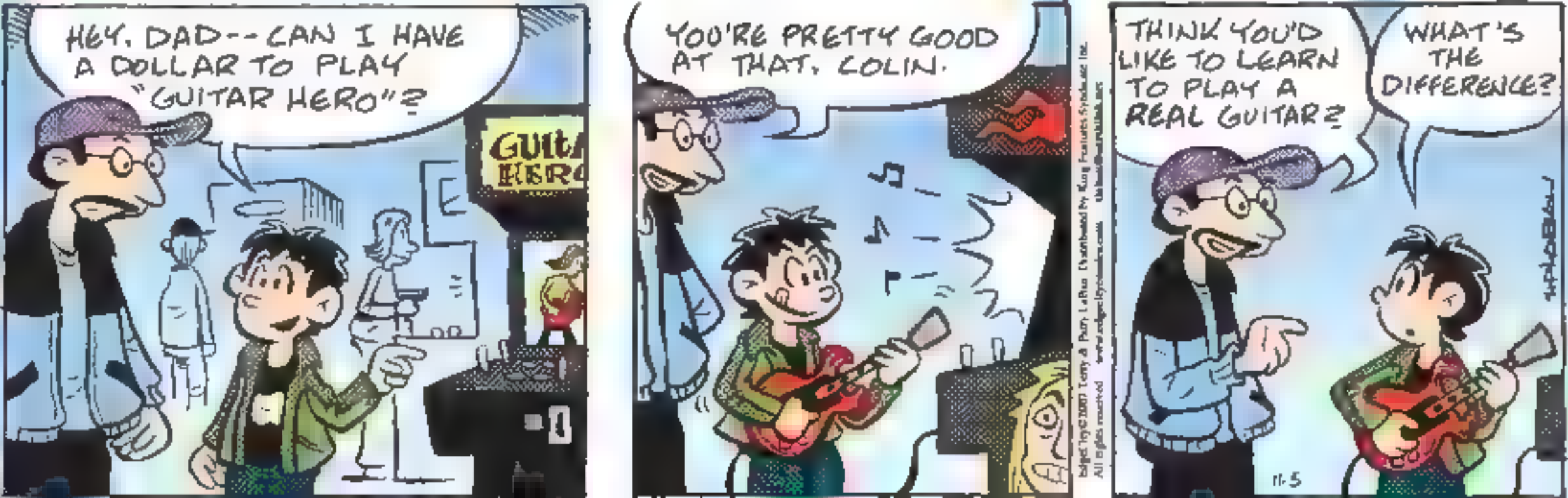
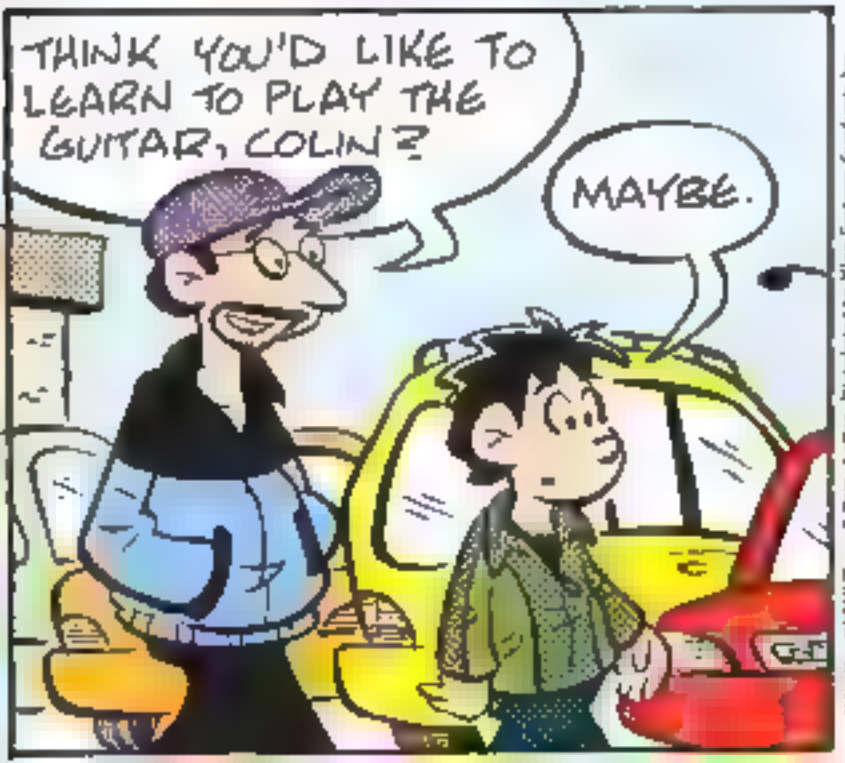

HEY, DAD--CAN I HAVE A DOLLAR TO PLAY "GUITAR HERO"?
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT THAT, COLIN.
THINK YOU'D LIKE TO LEARN TO PLAY A REAL GUITAR?
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
11-5



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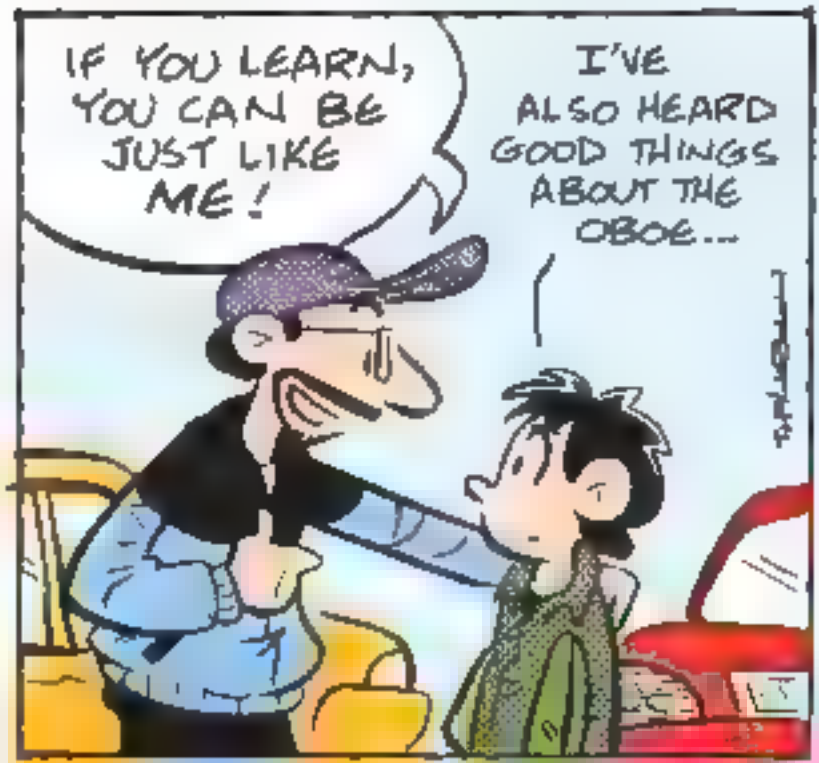

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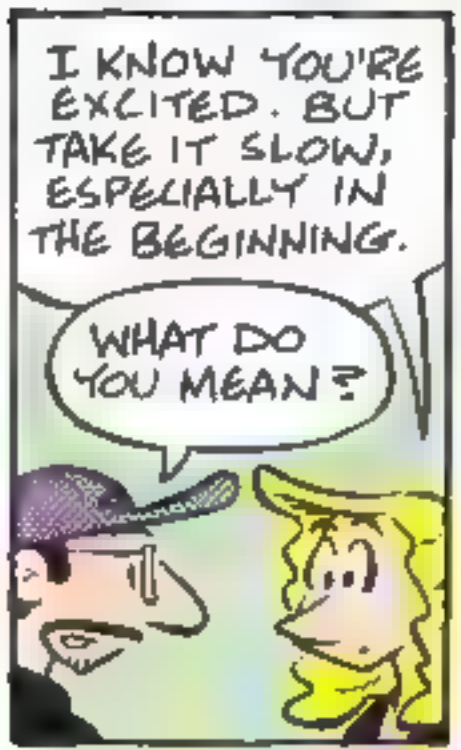

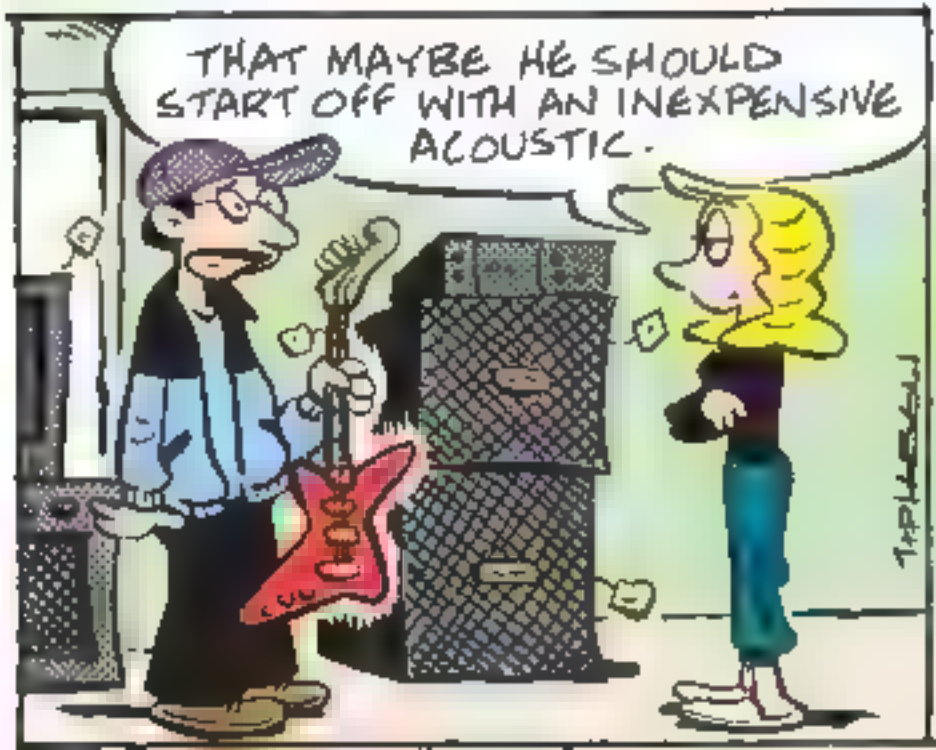

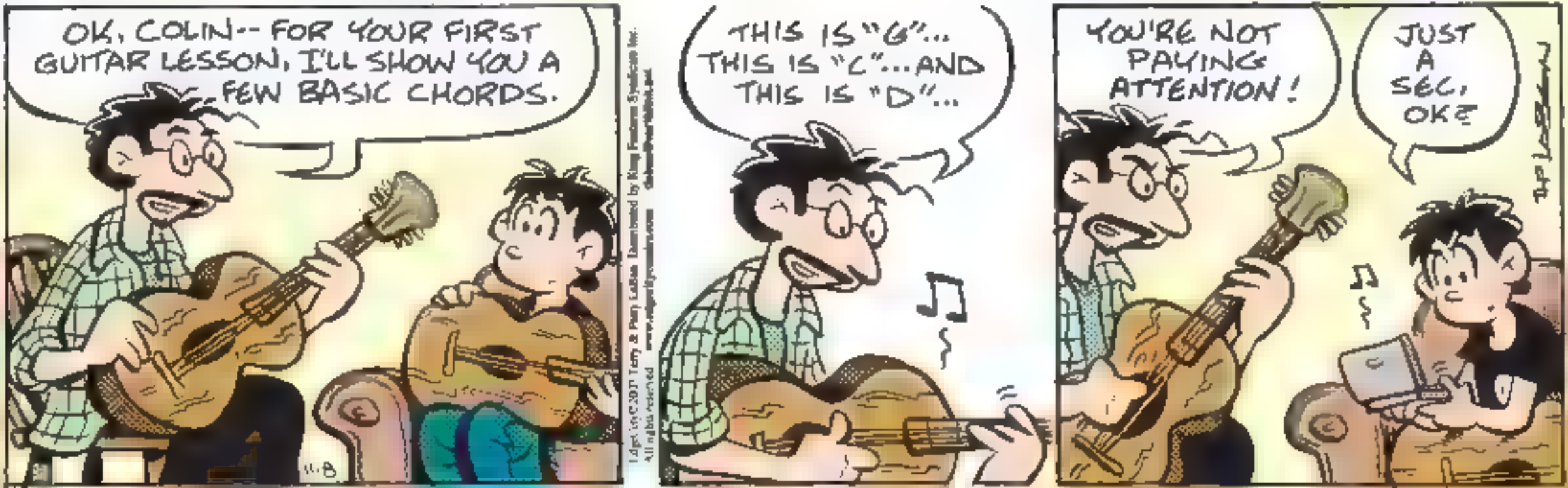

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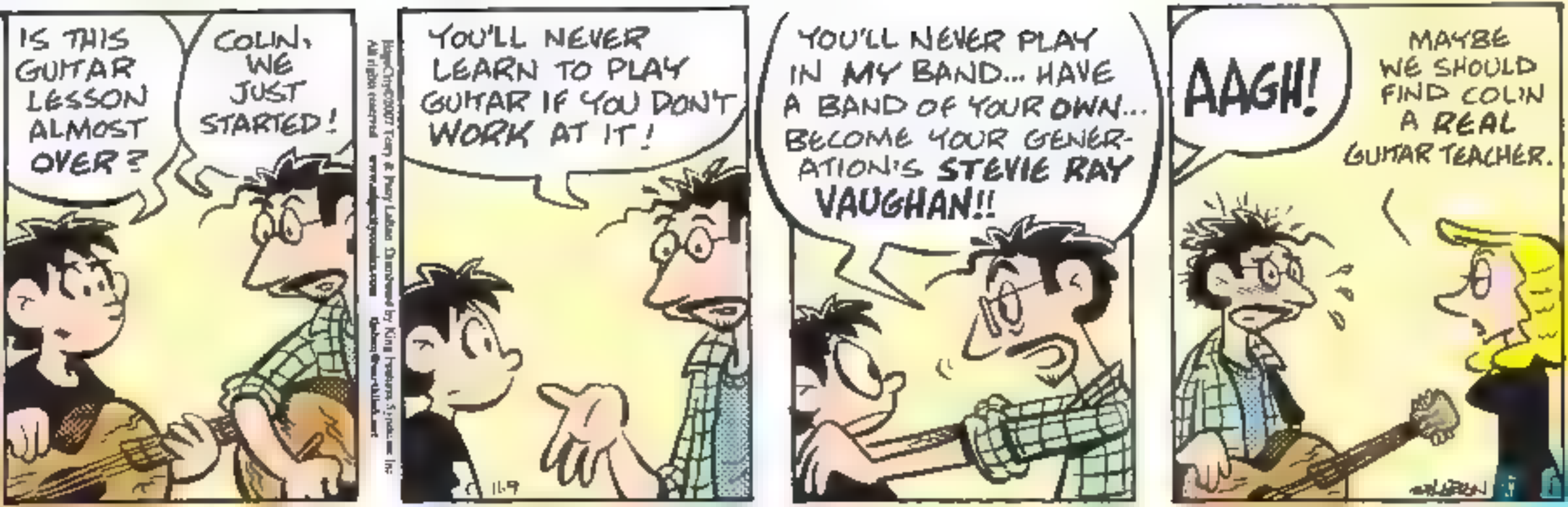
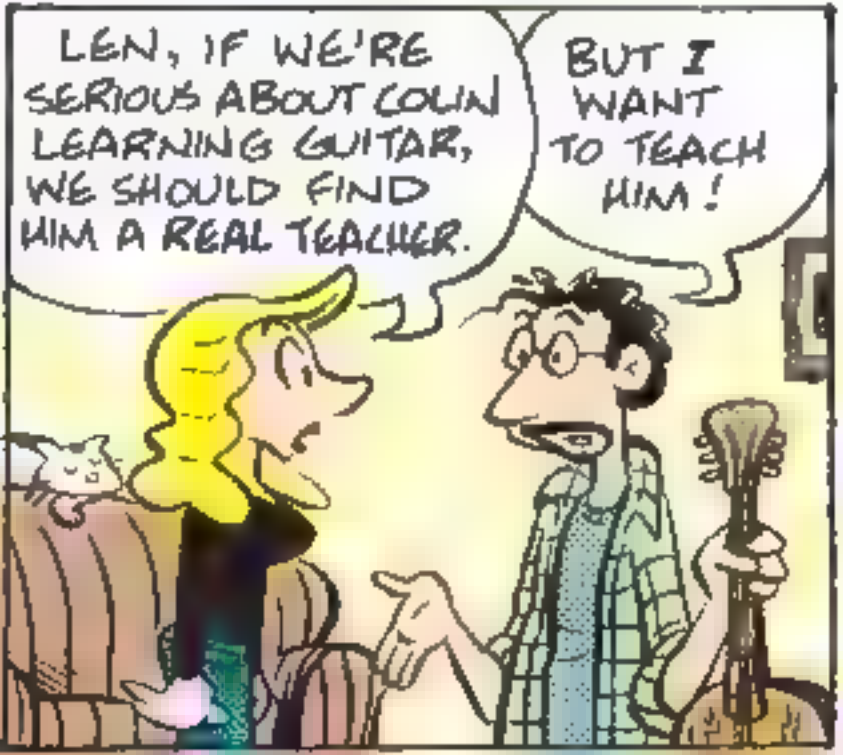

IS THIS GUITAR LESSON ALMOST OVER?
COLIN, WE JUST STARTED!
YOU'LL NEVER LEARN TO PLAY GUITAR IF YOU DON'T WORK AT IT!
YOU'LL NEVER PLAY IN MY BAND... HAVE A BAND OF YOUR OWN... BECOME YOUR GENERATION'S STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN!!
AAGH!
MAYBE WE SHOULD FIND COLIN A REAL GUITAR TEACHER.



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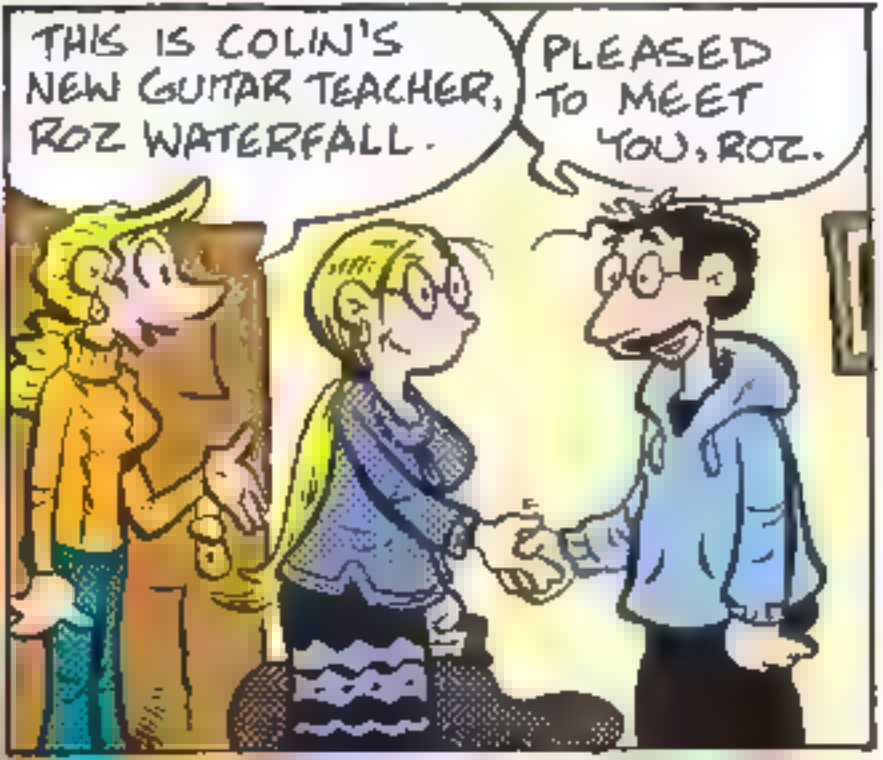
THIS GUY'S JOB APPLICATION LOOKS ALL RIGHT.
WE PROBABLY SHOULD GOOGLE HIM, JUST TO SEE WHAT'S OUT THERE.
JEEZ-- IN HIGH SCHOOL HE GOT A "D" IN CERAMICS.
AND HE GOT WRITTEN UP IN 11th GRADE FOR MOONING THE GLEE CLUB!
HERE'S A PICTURE OF HIS EX-GIRLFRIEND DOUSING HIM WITH A DAIQUIRI!
AND ANOTHER OF HIM DRESSED AS PRINCESS FIONA AT A "SHREK" CONVENTION!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
WELL, I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING THAT DISQUALIFIES THE GUY.
ME, EITHER. GO AHEAD AND HIRE HIM.
WELCOME... ...snicker!... ABOARD, MIKE!
GOOD TO..chuckle!... HAVE YOU WORKING HERE!
?



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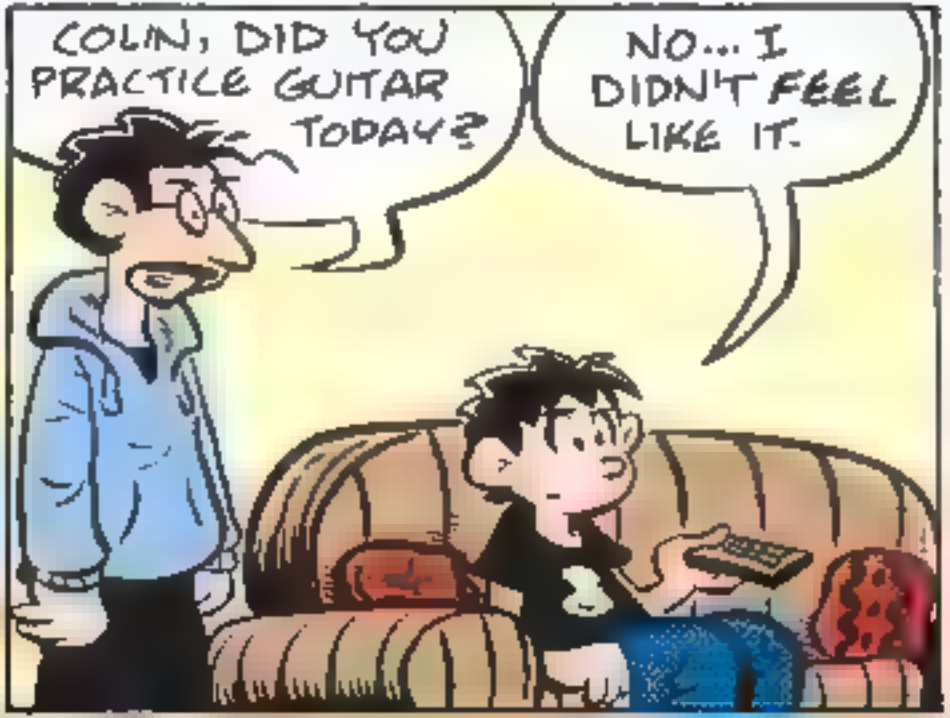
Y'KNOW, ABBY-- I'M STARTING TO THINK COLIN'S GUITAR TEACHER IS A LITTLE TOO LAID-BACK.
SHE SAYS SHE DOESN'T LIKE TO PUSH THE KIDS 'TIL THEY'RE READY.
MAYBE. BUT COLIN'S HAD 4 LESSONS AND HE HASN'T LEARNED TO PLAY A NOTE.
11-13
THOUGH HE'S DEFINITELY GOTTEN BETTER AT HACKY SACK!
OK-- TIME TO WRAP IT UP!



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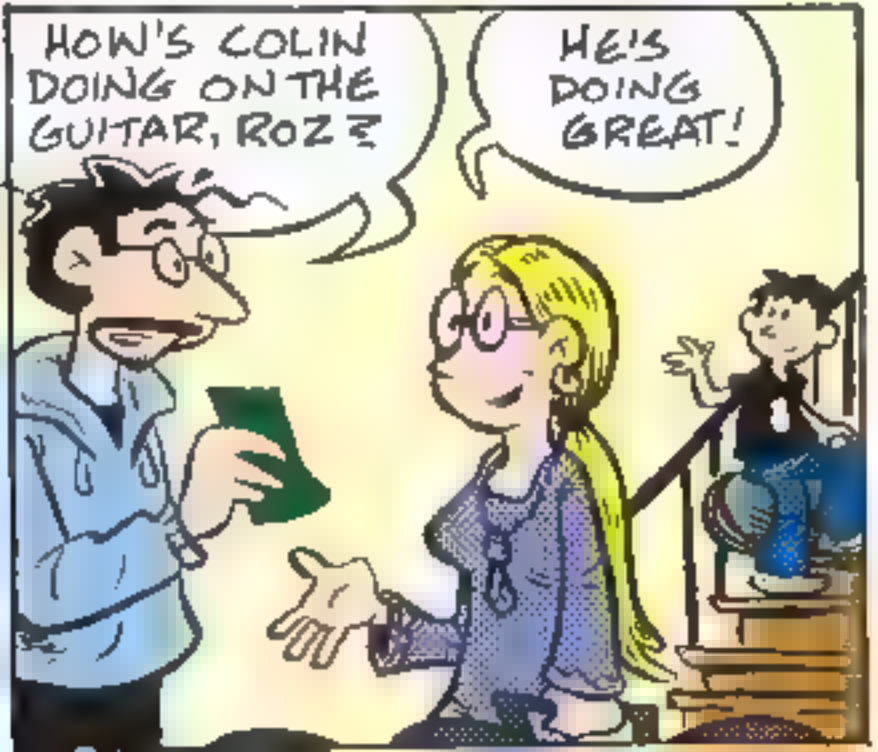

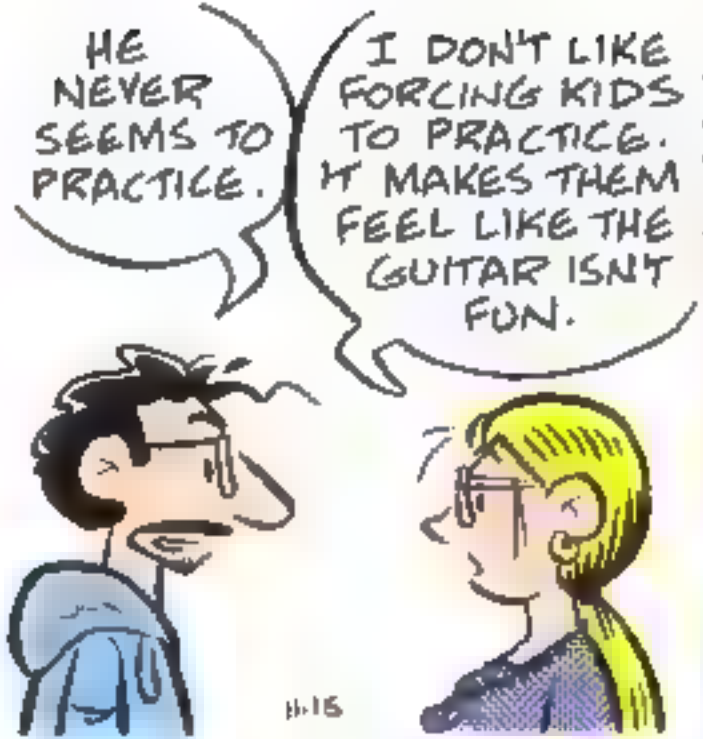

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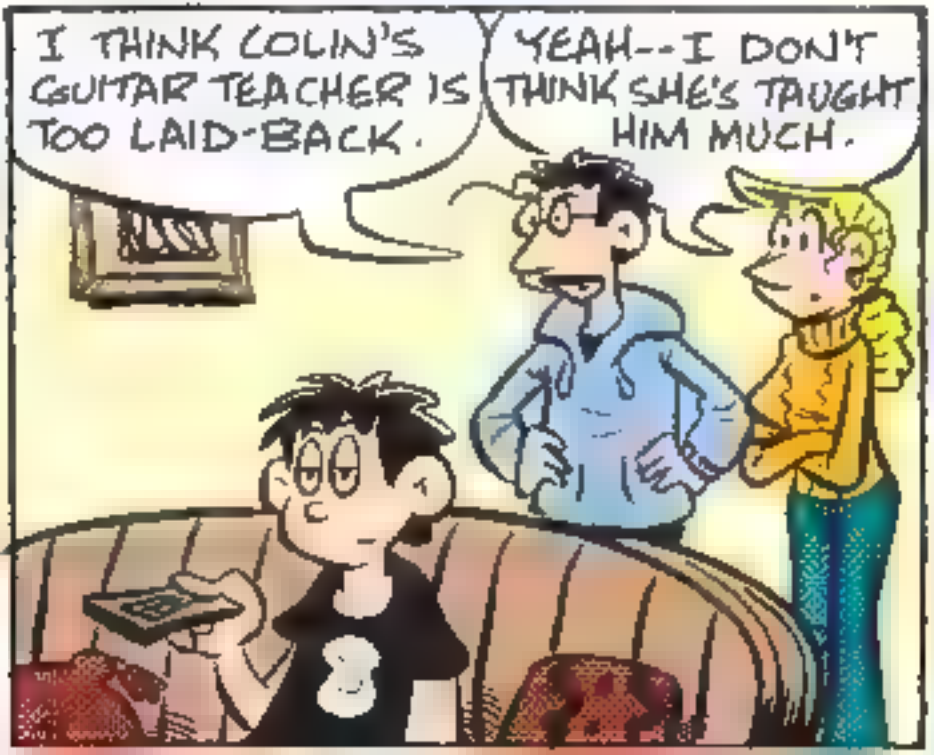

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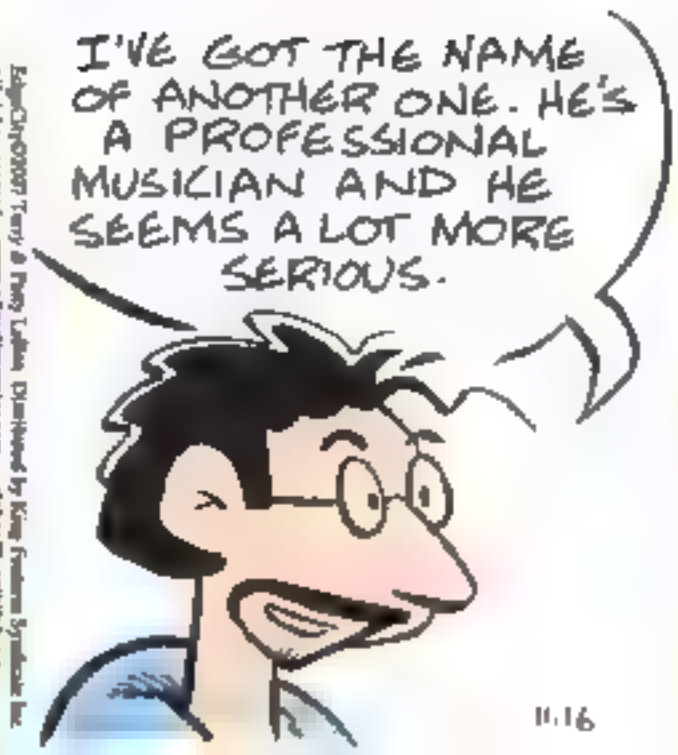

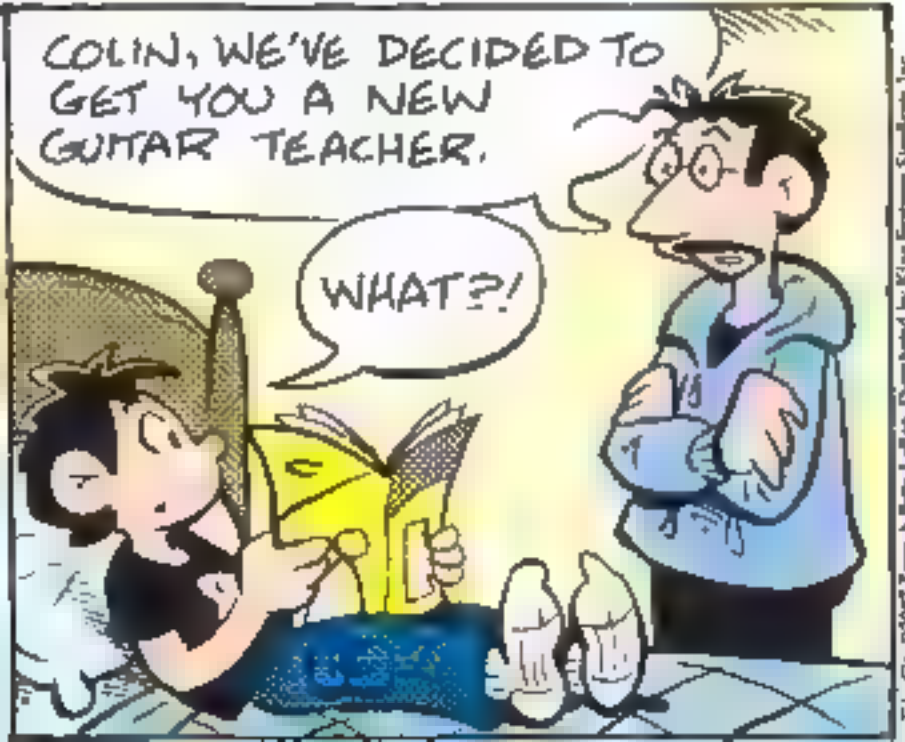

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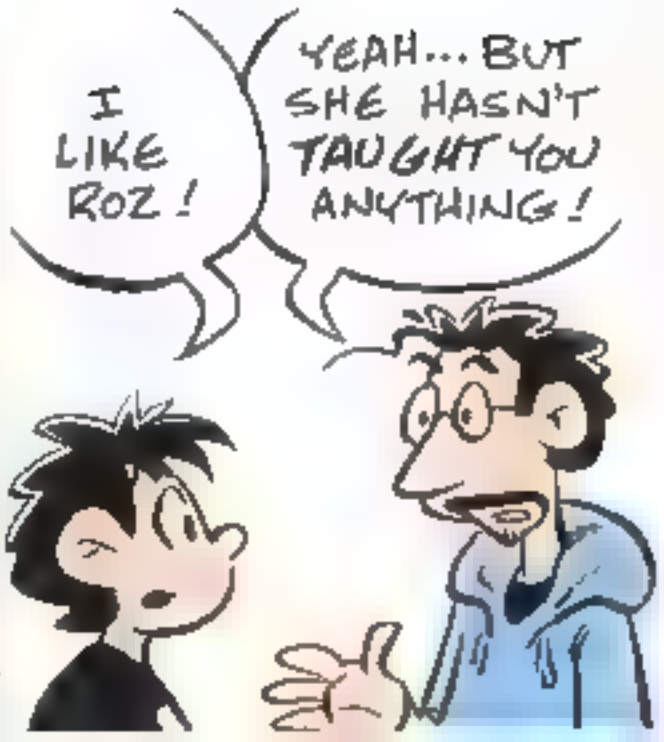
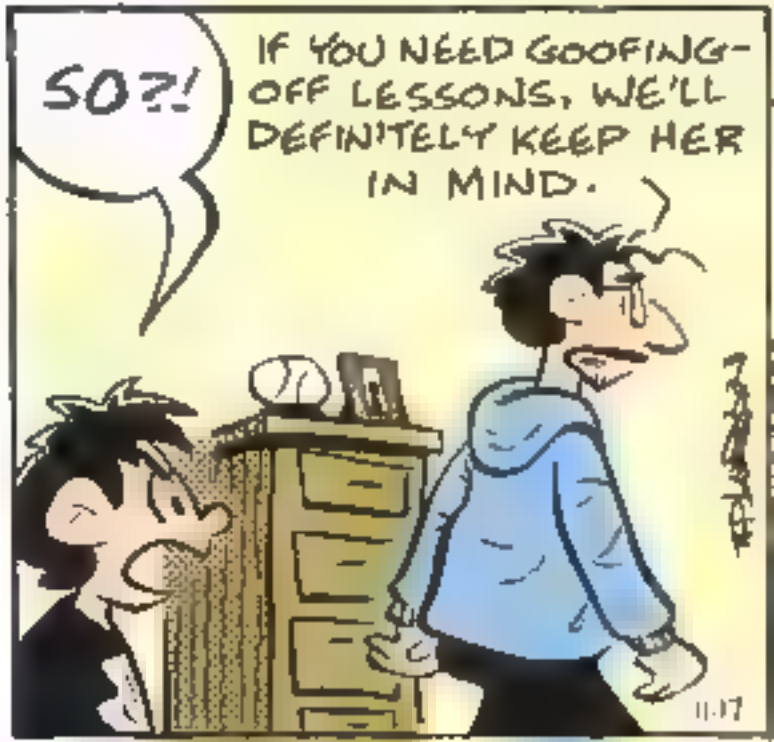
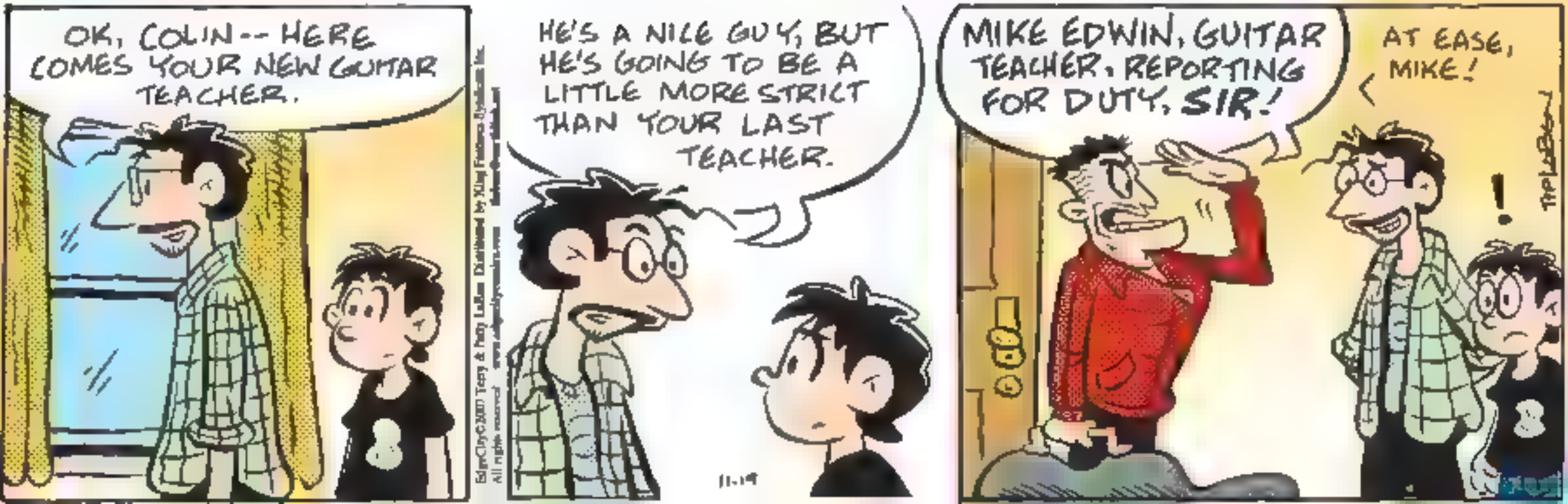
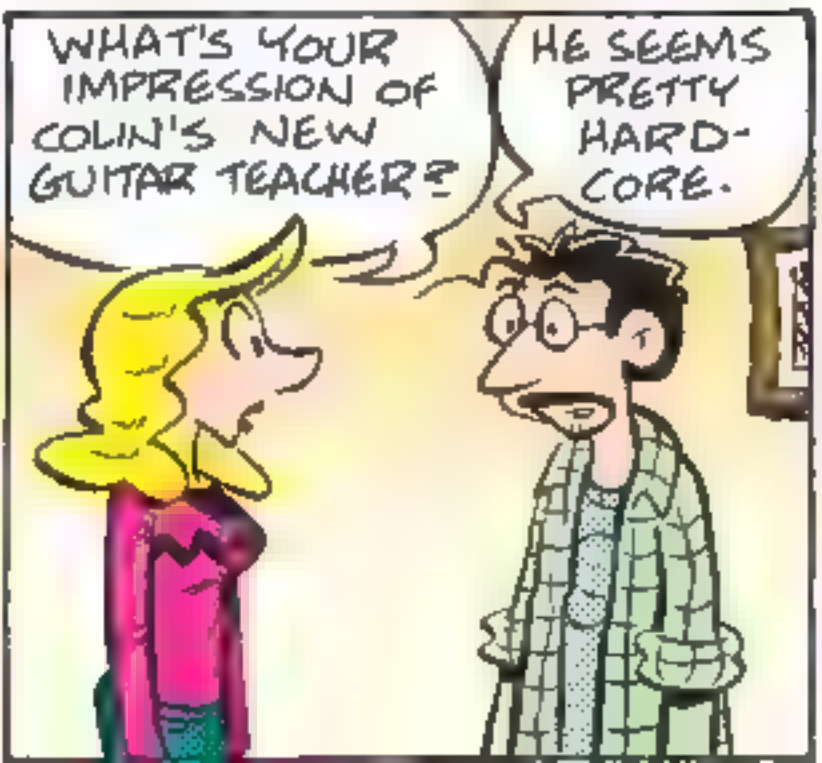




HOW 'BOUT IF I JUST TURN OFF THE SOUND?


OK, COLIN -- HERE COMES YOUR NEW GUITAR TEACHER.
HE'S A NICE GUY, BUT HE'S GOING TO BE A LITTLE MORE STRICT THAN YOUR LAST TEACHER.
MIKE EDWIN, GUITAR TEACHER, REPORTING FOR DUTY, SIR!
AT EASE, MIKE!
!



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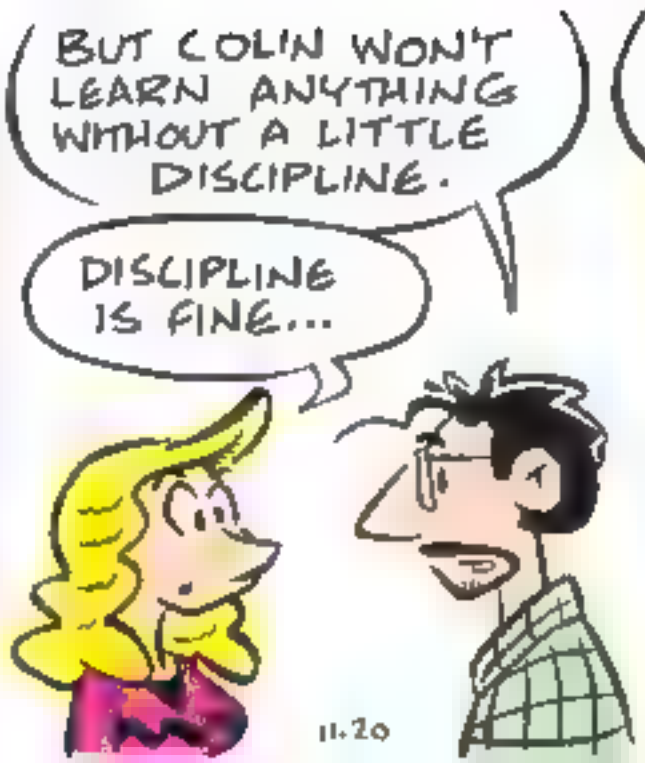

YOUR GUITAR TEACHER'S COMING SOON, COLIN. DID YOU PRACTICE YOUR GUITAR TODAY?

NOT YET.

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Y'KNOW, YOUR TEACHER WILL BE ABLE TO TELL YOU'VE BEEN SLACKING OFF.

THAT SOUNDS TERRIBLE! DROP AND GIVE ME 20!!

I'M NOT SURE THIS APPROACH IS GOING TO WORK, EITHER.

TIPLADON

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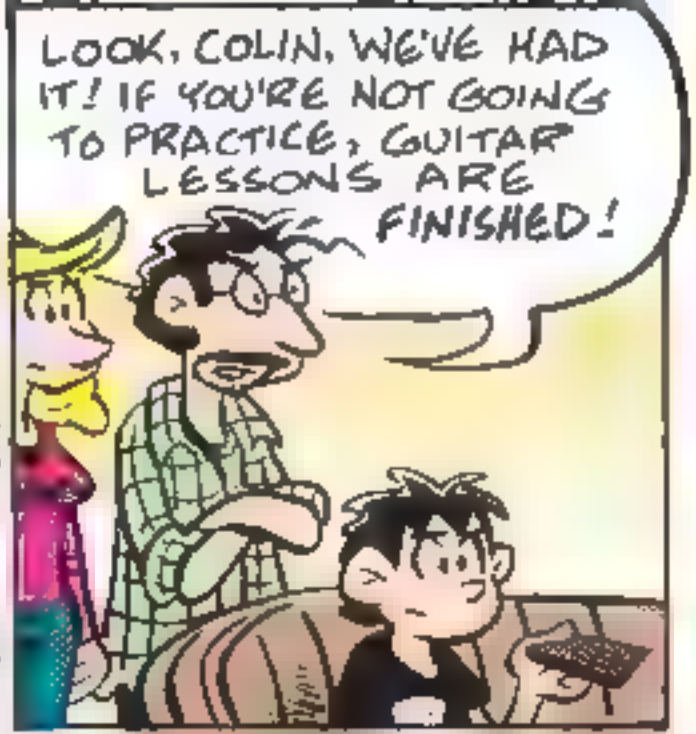

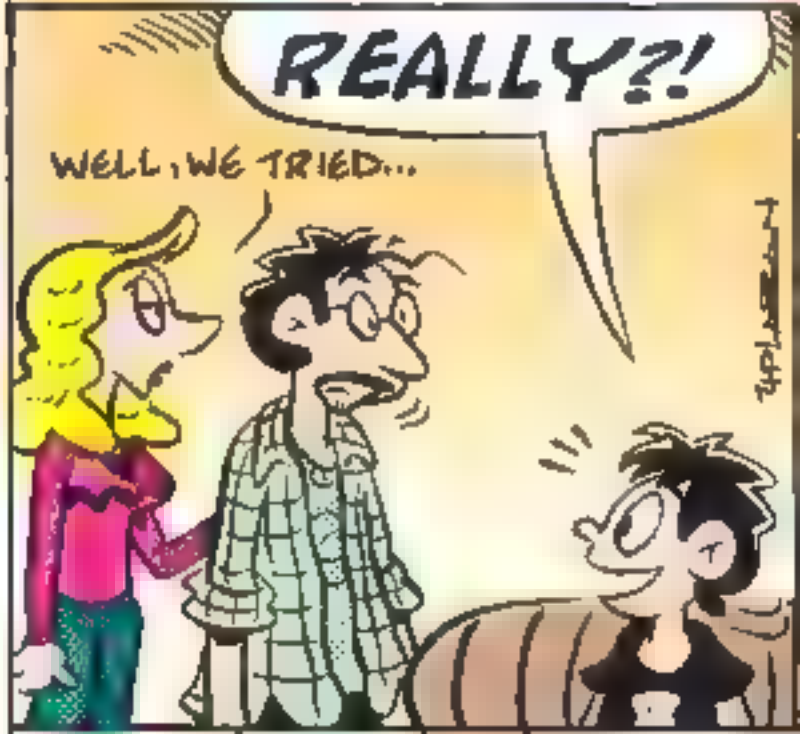

11-23

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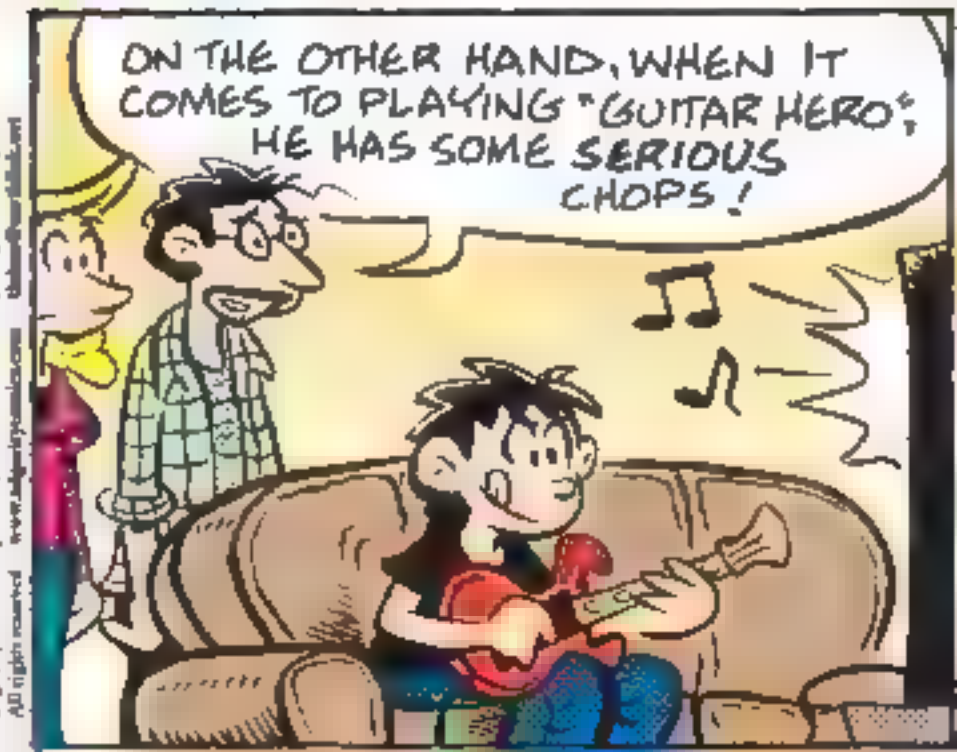
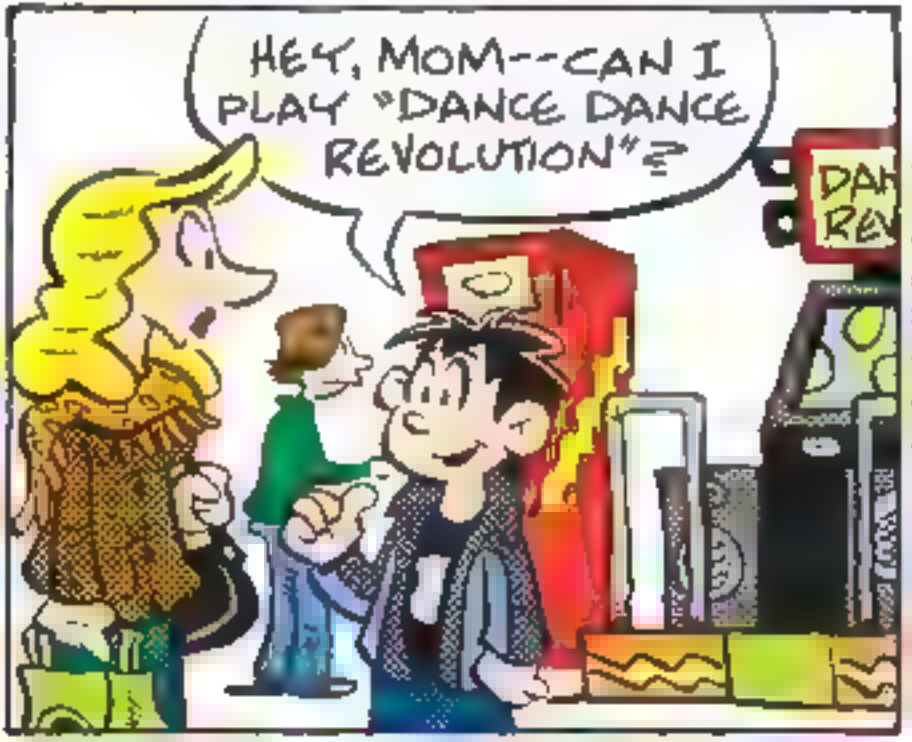
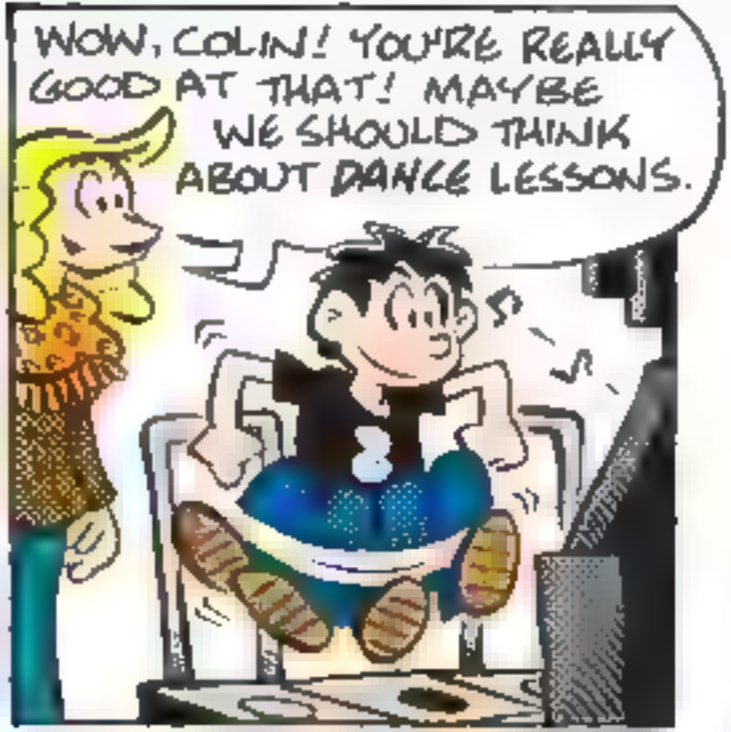
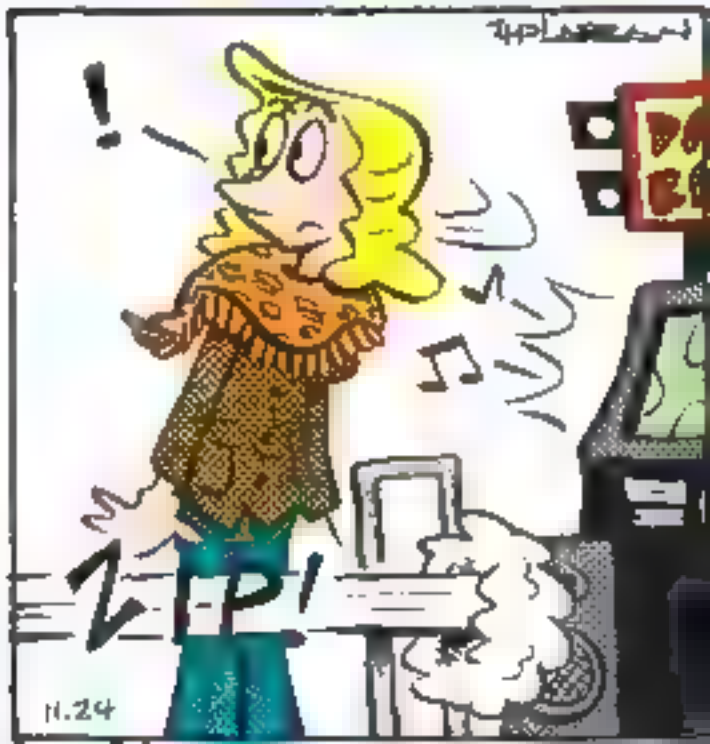



HEY, MOM--CAN I PLAY "DANCE DANCE REVOLUTION"?


WOW, COLIN! YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT THAT! MAYBE WE SHOULD THINK ABOUT DANCE LESSONS.

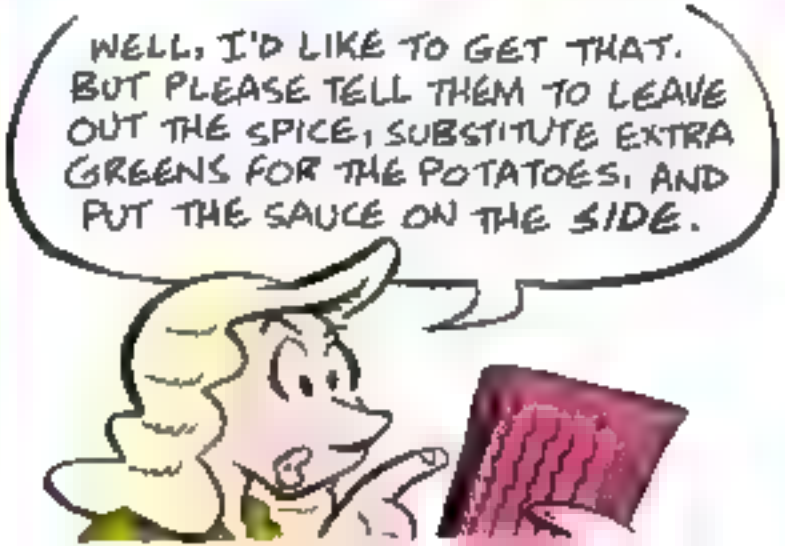

!
ZIP!
11.24

READY TO ORDER?
I THINK SO.

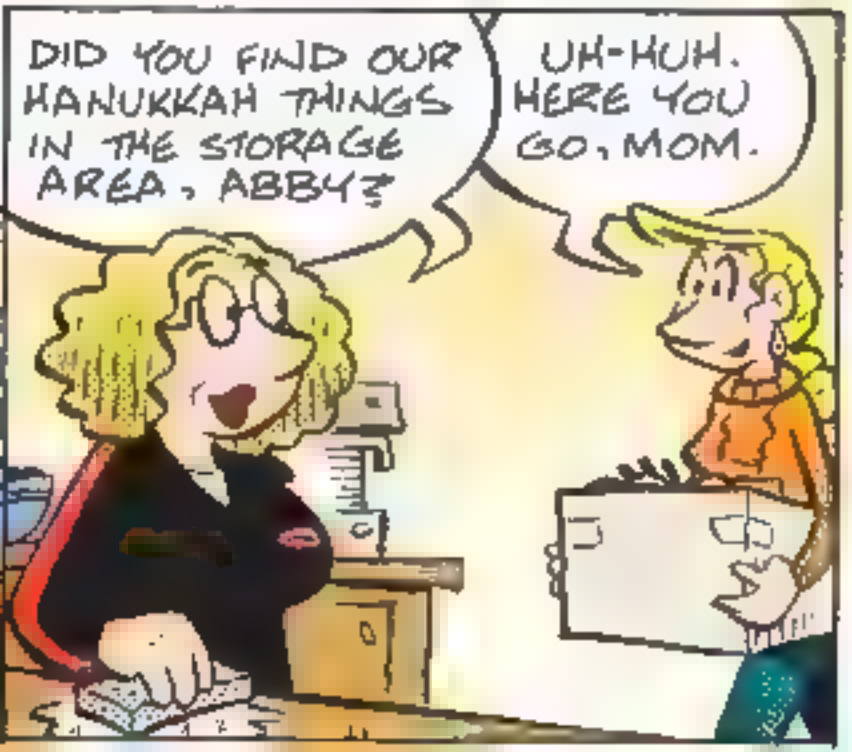
I'LL HAVE THE CHICKEN MARSALA.
OK. AND YOU, MA'AM?

THE SEA BASS... IS IT FRESH?
ABSOLUTELY!
WHAT KIND OF GREENS IS IT ON?
SPINACH AND KALE.

DOES THE SAUCE HAVE BUTTER IN IT?
IT DOES.
ARE THE POTATOES BAKED?
NO--, SAUTEED.
IS IT SPICY?
JUST A TAD.


WELL, I'D LIKE TO GET THAT. BUT PLEASE TELL THEM TO LEAVE OUT THE SPICE, SUBSTITUTE EXTRA GREENS FOR THE POTATOES, AND PUT THE SAUCE ON THE SIDE.

I LOVE THE FOOD HERE.



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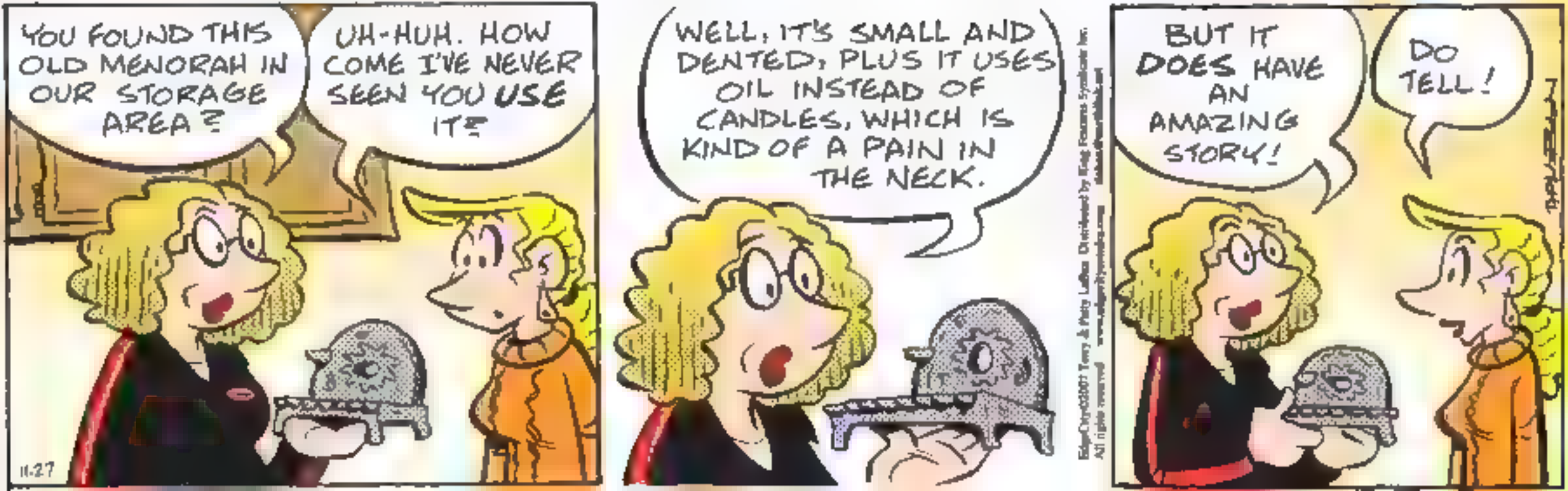
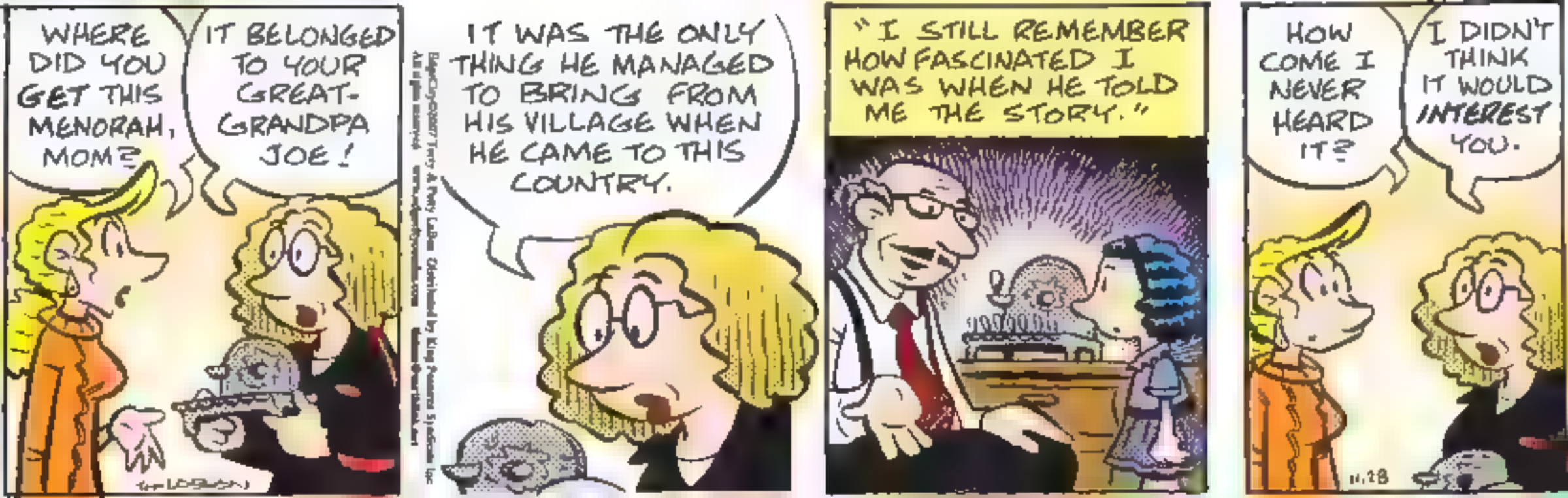
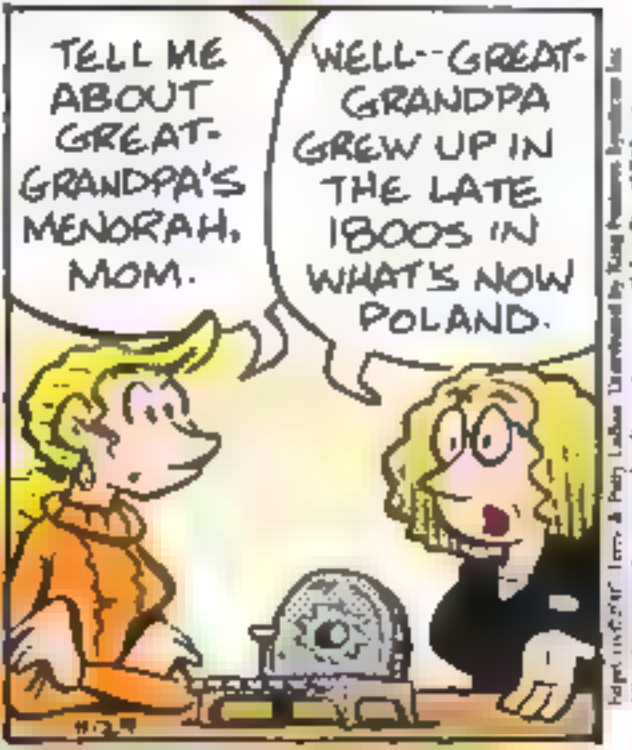

YOU FOUND THIS OLD MENORAH IN OUR STORAGE AREA?
UH-HUH. HOW COME I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU USE IT?
WELL, IT'S SMALL AND DENTED, PLUS IT USES OIL INSTEAD OF CANDLES, WHICH IS KIND OF A PAIN IN THE NECK.
BUT IT DOES HAVE AN AMAZING STORY!
DO TELL!
11-27


WHERE DID YOU GET THIS MENORAH, MOM?
IT BELONGED TO YOUR GREAT-GRANDPA JOE!
IT WAS THE ONLY THING HE MANAGED TO BRING FROM HIS VILLAGE WHEN HE CAME TO THIS COUNTRY.
"I STILL REMEMBER HOW FASCINATED I WAS WHEN HE TOLD ME THE STORY."
HOW COME I NEVER HEARD IT?
I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD INTEREST YOU.



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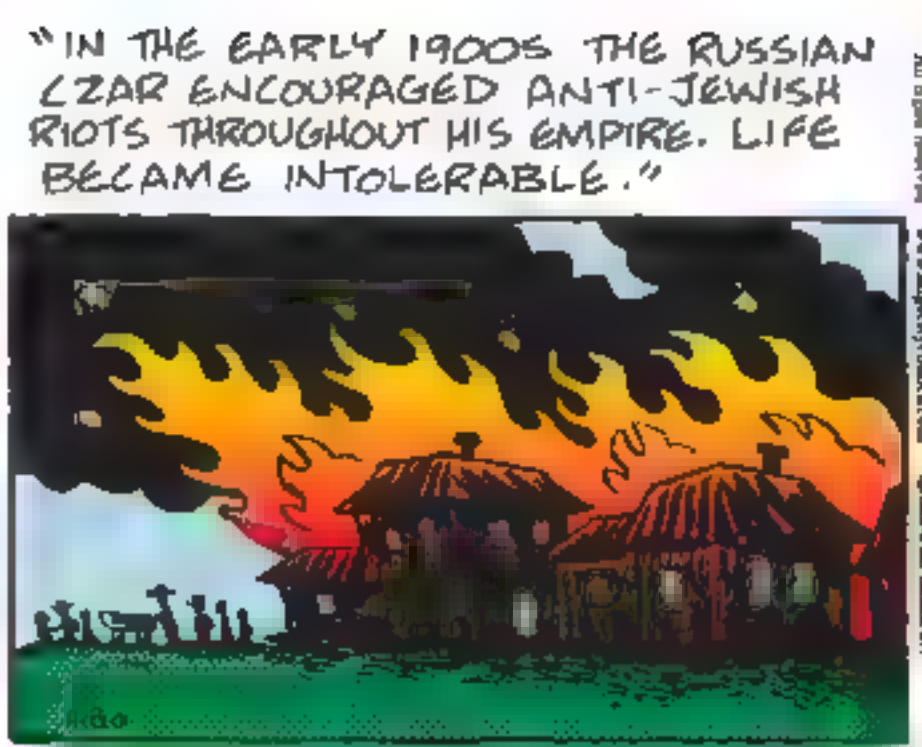

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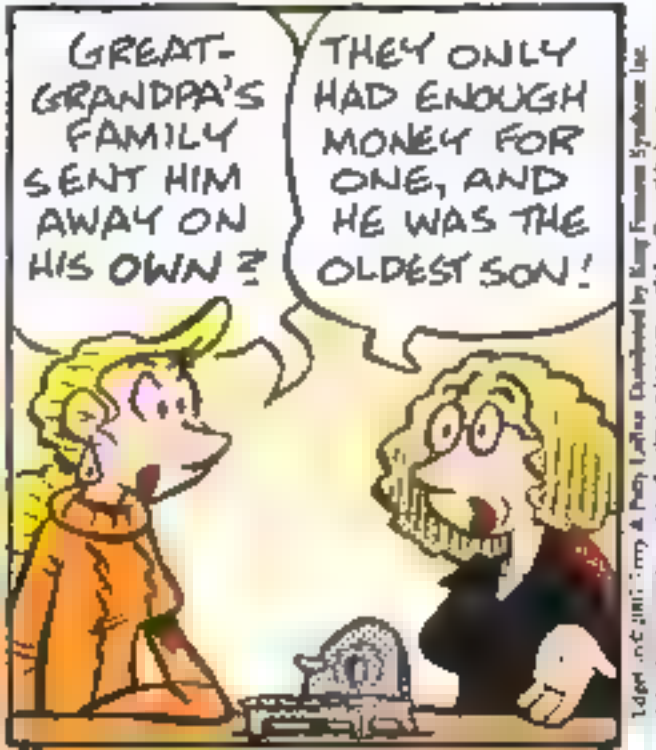
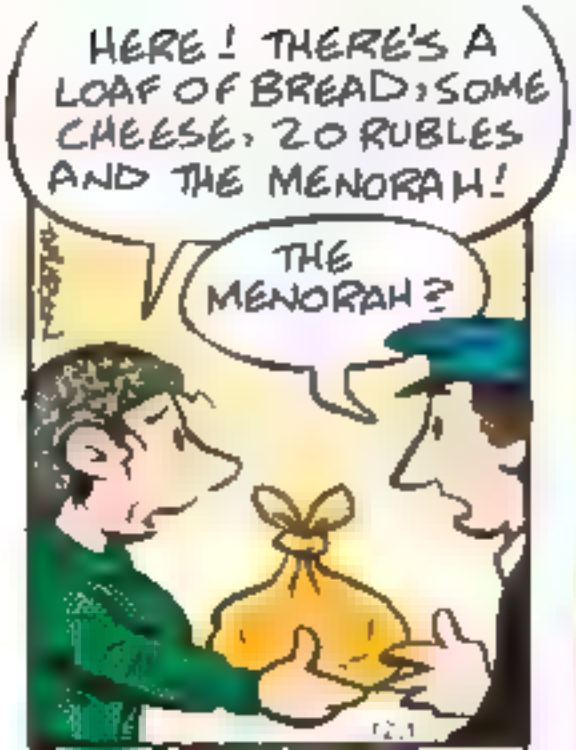

GREAT-GRANDPA'S FAMILY SENT HIM AWAY ON HIS OWN?
THEY ONLY HAD ENOUGH MONEY FOR ONE, AND HE WAS THE OLDEST SON!

"IF HE COULD MAKE IT TO AMERICA, HE COULD WORK AND SEND FOR THE REST OF THE FAMILY."
I'LL WRITE YOUR UNCLE SOL IN NEW YORK. I'M SURE HE'LL HELP YOU!


HERE! THERE'S A LOAF OF BREAD, SOME CHEESE, 20 RUBLES AND THE MENORAH!
THE MENORAH?

WHAT'S THE MENORAH FOR?
IN CASE YOU NEED A MIRACLE!

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FOR HANUKKAH, ABBY?
YOU KNOW WHAT I'D LIKE?

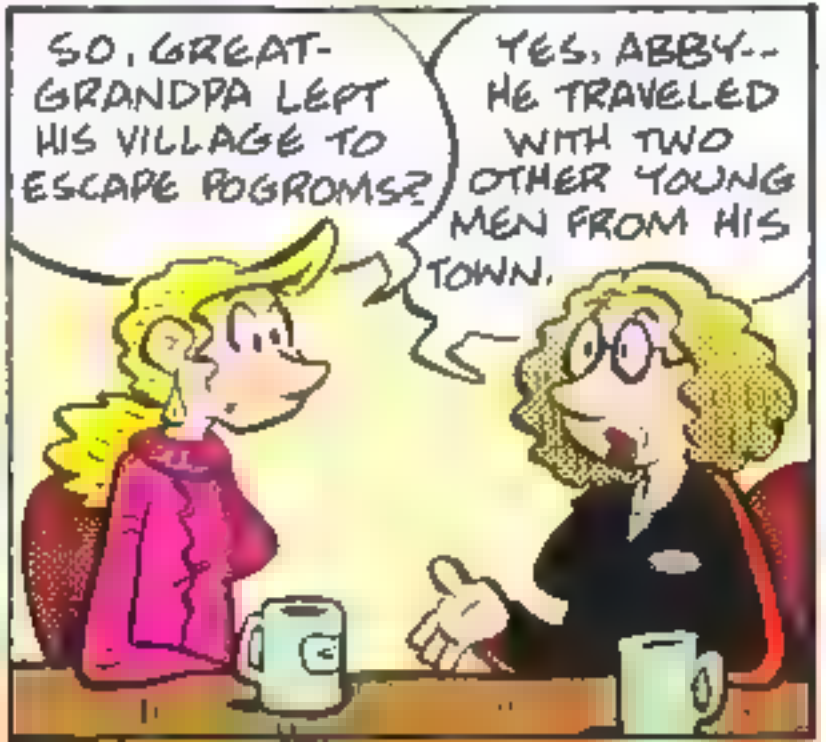
I'D LIKE EVERYONE IN OUR FAMILY TO LOVE AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER...

I'D LIKE OUR PARENTS TO BE HAPPY AND ENJOY GOOD HEALTH...

I'D LIKE TO SEE OUR COUNTRY AND EVERYONE IN THE WORLD HAVE SECURITY, FREEDOM AND PEACE!!

THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE FOR HANUKKAH.

THIS IS NICE. HAVE ANY EARRINGS TO GO WITH IT?
Jewelry


SO, GREAT-GRANDPA LEFT HIS VILLAGE TO ESCAPE POGROMS?
YES, ABBY-- HE TRAVELED WITH TWO OTHER YOUNG MEN FROM HIS TOWN.

"THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE DURING THE TWO-DAY TRIP TO THE GERMAN BORDER."

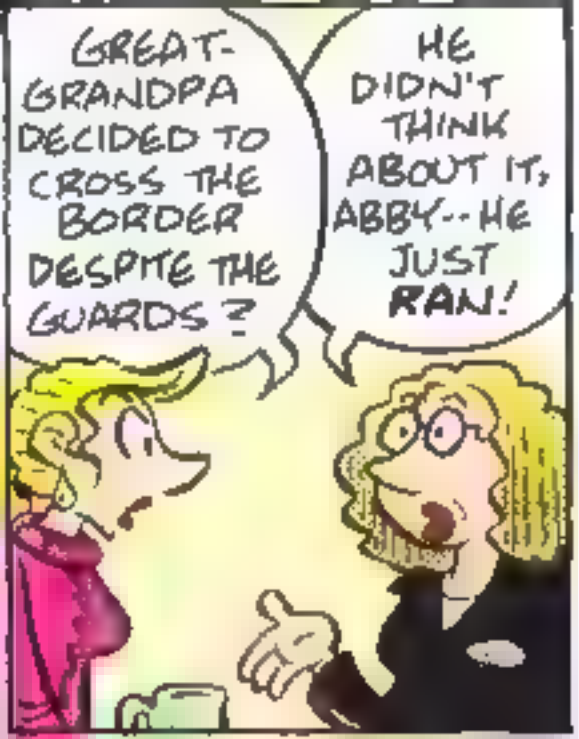
"BUT WHEN THEY ARRIVED THERE, THE GOING GOT A LOT HARDER."
BORDER GUARDS!
WE HAVE NO PAPERS! WHAT'LL WE DO?

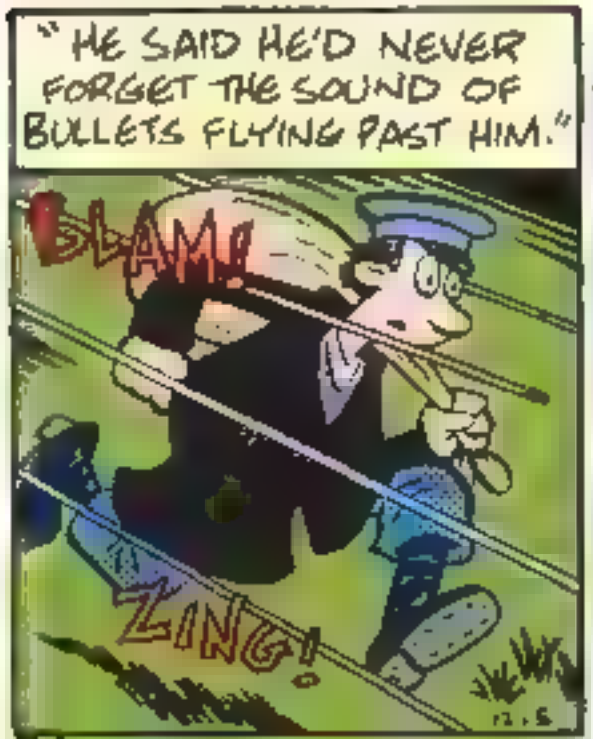
COULDN'T GREAT-GRANDPA JUST WALK ACROSS THE BORDER?
HE HAD NO PAPERS! THE CZAR'S SOLDIERS WOULD'VE ARRESTED HIM!

"HE AND HIS FRIENDS DECIDED TO TRY TO SNEAK ACROSS. BUT THEY DIDN'T GET FAR."
HEY! WHO'S OVER THERE?!
SNAP!

"AT THAT MOMENT, THE OTHERS DECIDED IT WASN'T WORTH THE RISK."
JOSEPH, WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT! LET'S GO BACK!
NO!

JOSEPH!





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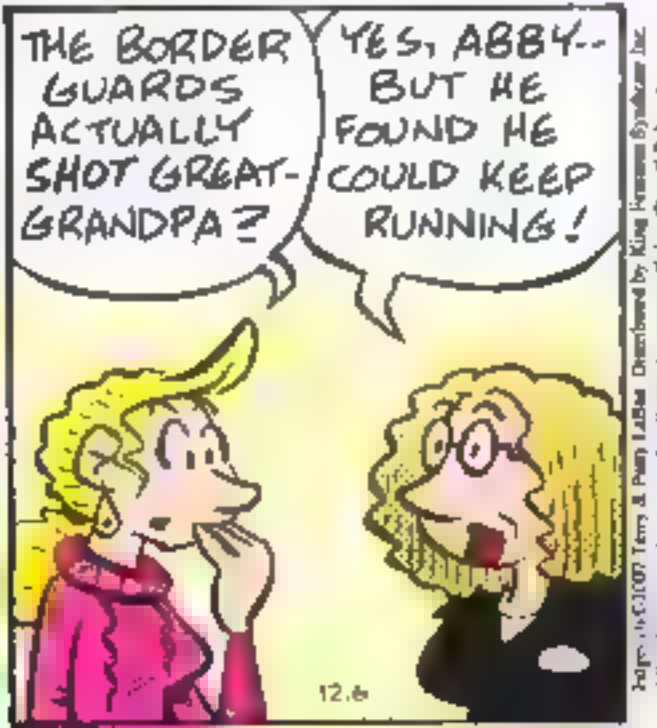

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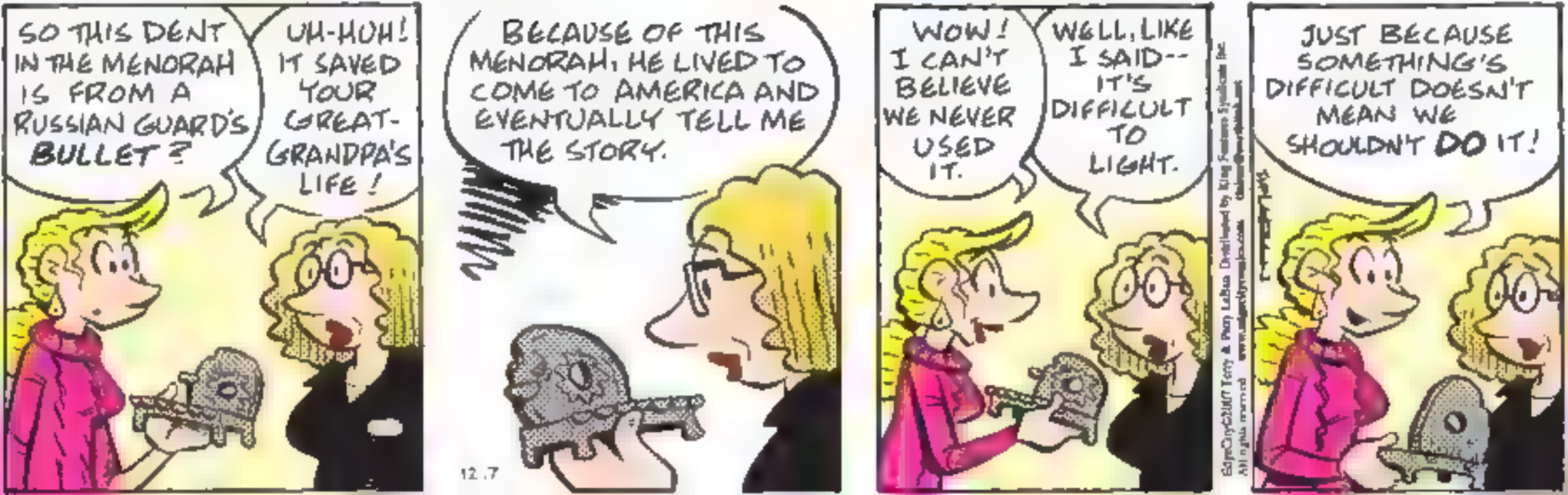
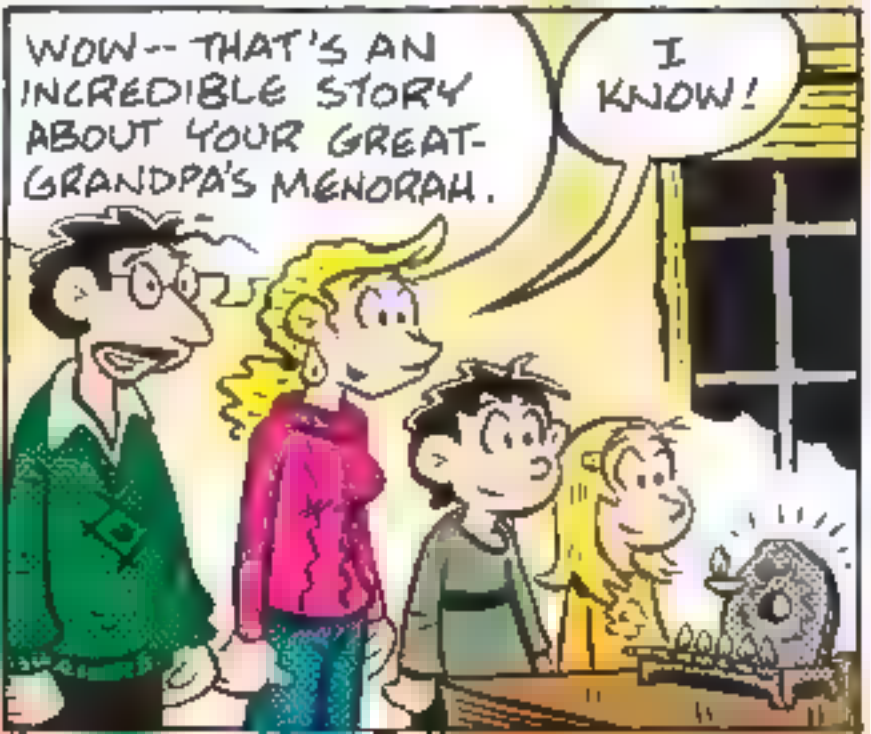

SO THIS DENT IN THE MENORAH IS FROM A RUSSIAN GUARD'S BULLET?
UH-HUH! IT SAVED YOUR GREAT-GRANDPA'S LIFE!
BECAUSE OF THIS MENORAH, HE LIVED TO COME TO AMERICA AND EVENTUALLY TELL ME THE STORY.
12.7
WOW! I CAN'T BELIEVE WE NEVER USED IT.
WELL, LIKE I SAID-- IT'S DIFFICULT TO LIGHT.
JUST BECAUSE SOMETHING'S DIFFICULT DOESN'T MEAN WE SHOULDN'T DO IT!



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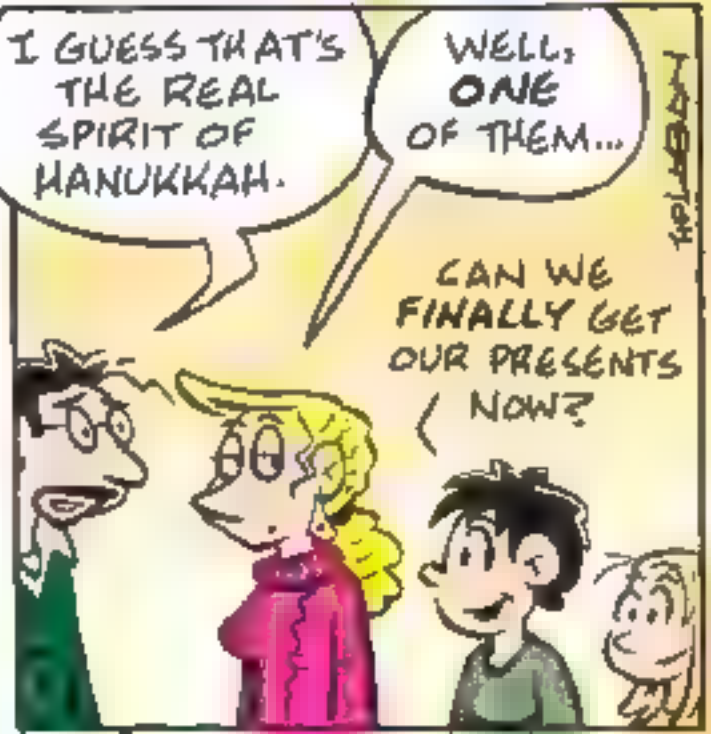
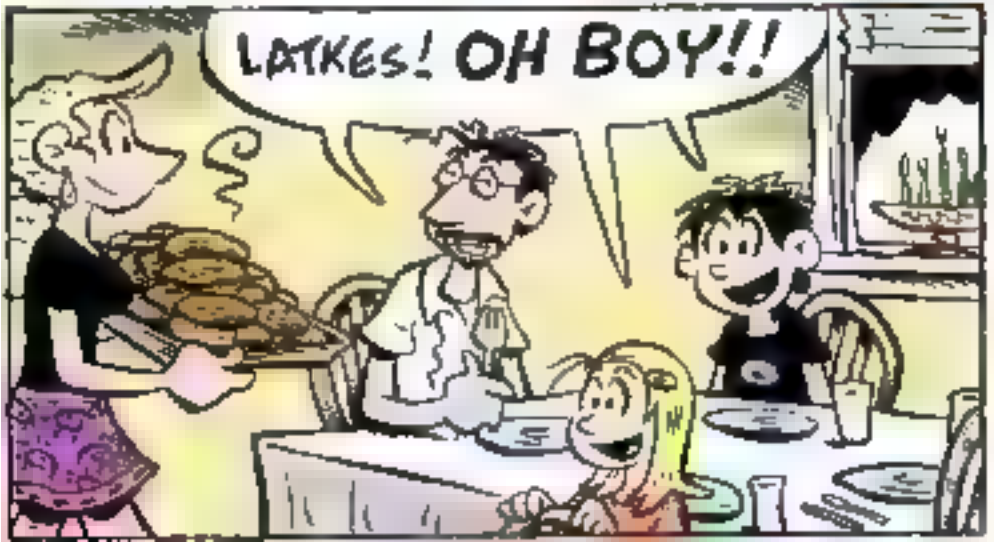


PEEL PEEL!
POTATOES

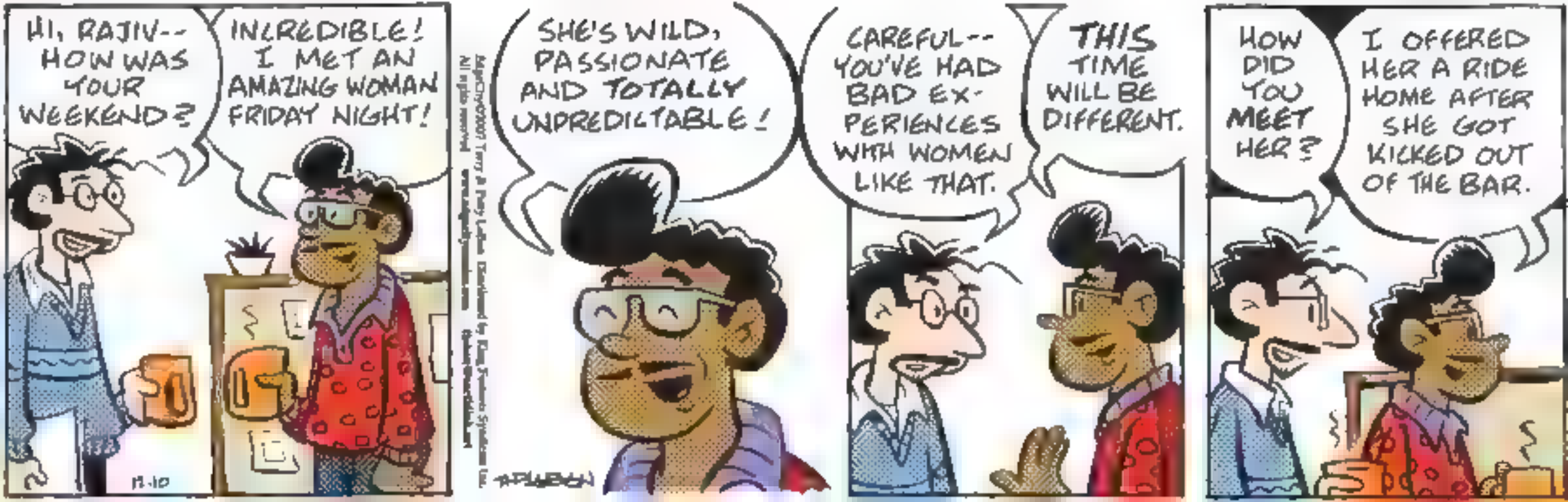
GRIND GRIND!

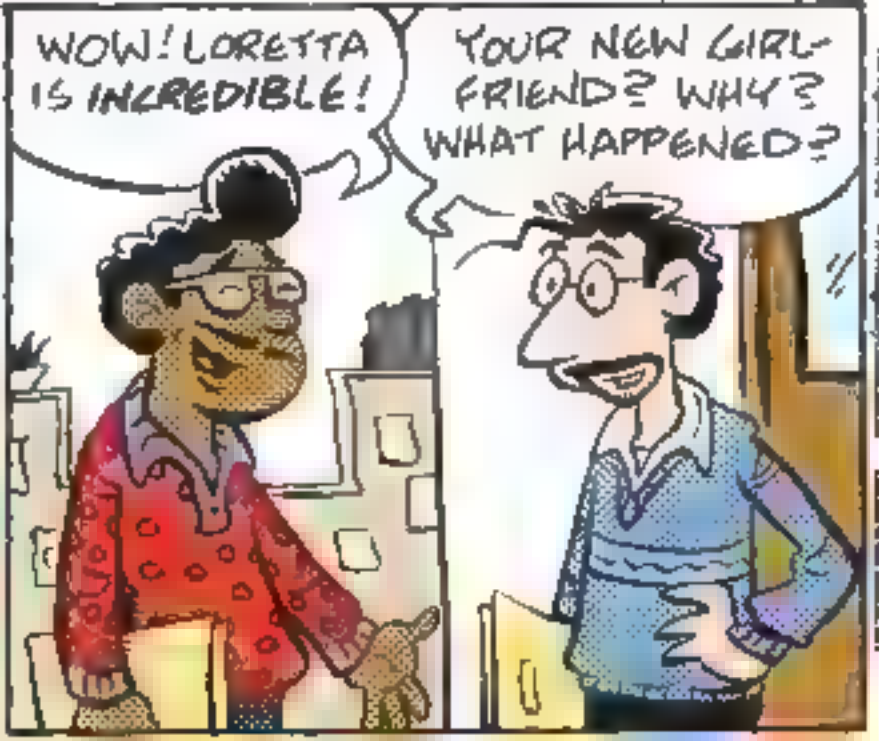
FRY FRY!


LATKES! OH BOY!!

GOBBLE GOBBLE GOBBLE!

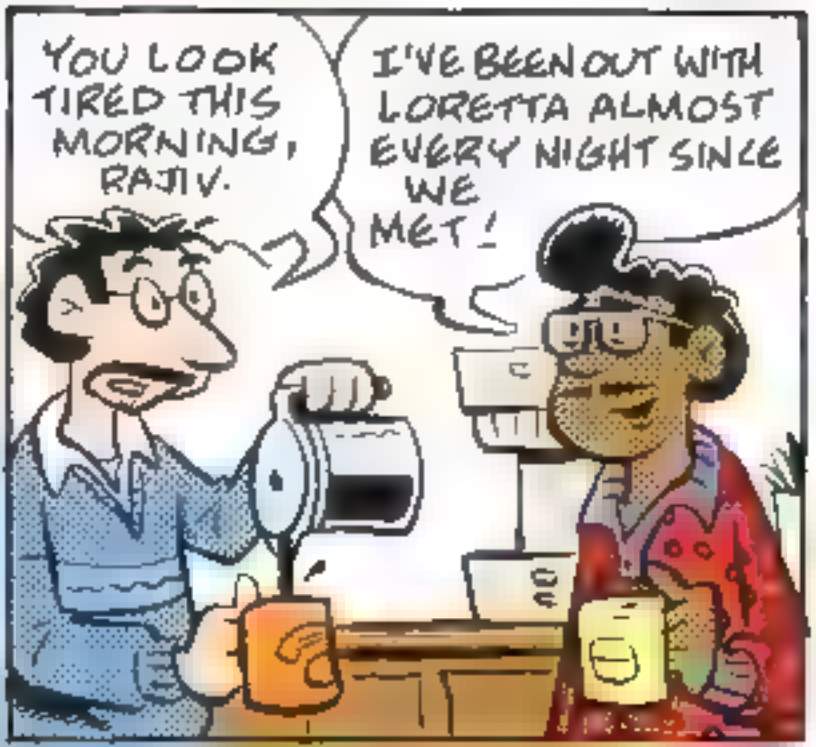
THE REAL MIRACLE OF HANUKKAH IS 4 PEOPLE EATING 10 POUNDS OF POTATOES IN 15 MINUTES.
CAN YOU MAKE MORE?

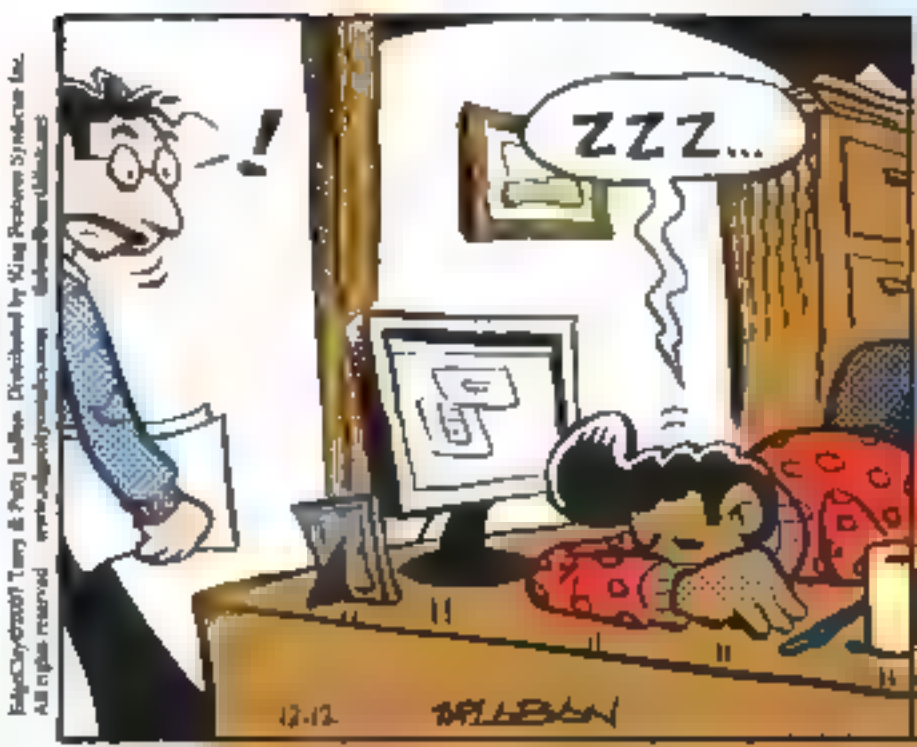

HI, RAJIV-- HOW WAS YOUR WEEKEND?
INCREDIBLE! I MET AN AMAZING WOMAN FRIDAY NIGHT!
SHE'S WILD, PASSIONATE AND TOTALLY UNPREDICTABLE!
CAREFUL-- YOU'VE HAD BAD EXPERIENCES WITH WOMEN LIKE THAT.
THIS TIME WILL BE DIFFERENT.
HOW DID YOU MEET HER?
I OFFERED HER A RIDE HOME AFTER SHE GOT KICKED OUT OF THE BAR.


WOW! LORETTA IS INCREDIBLE!
YOUR NEW GIRLFRIEND? WHY? WHAT HAPPENED?

SHE SHOWED UP AT MY HOUSE WITH TWO PLANE TICKETS AND ASKED ME TO SPEND THE WEEKEND IN PARIS!
YOU WENT TO PARIS OVER THE WEEKEND?

YOU COULDN'T HAVE HAD MUCH TIME FOR SIGHTSEEING!
HEH! ACTUALLY, WE NEVER LEFT THE HOTEL...





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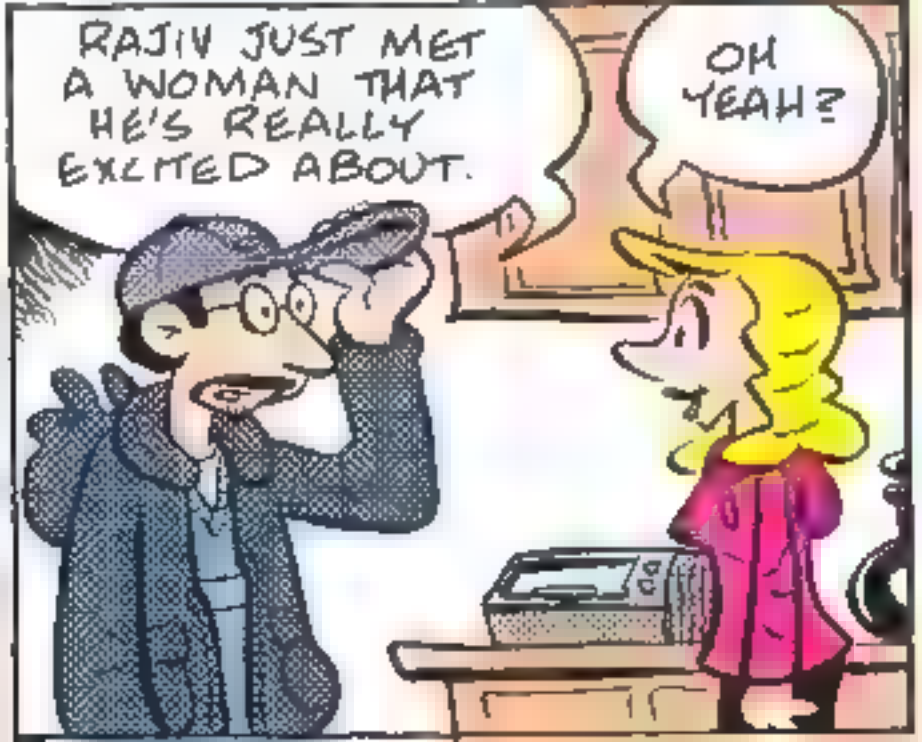
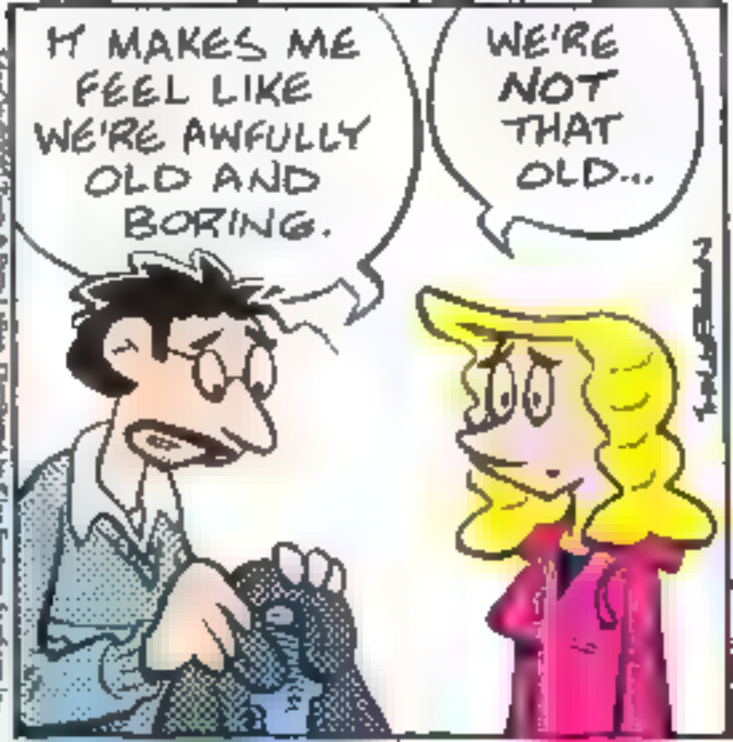
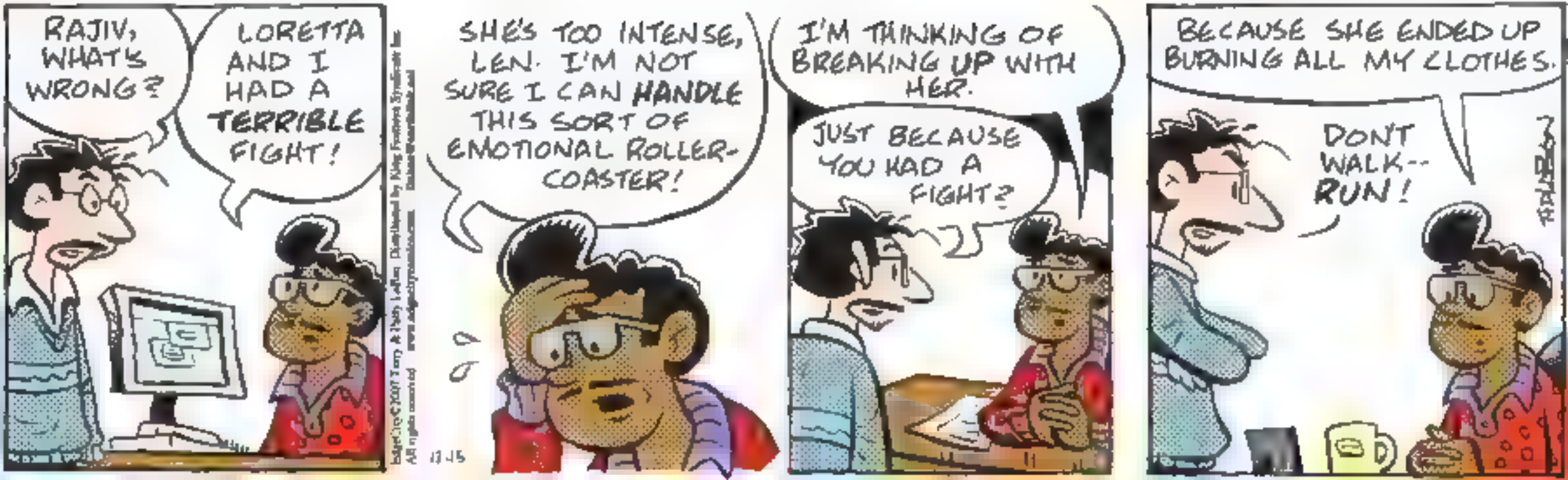

RAJIV JUST MET A WOMAN THAT HE'S REALLY EXCITED ABOUT.
OH YEAH?

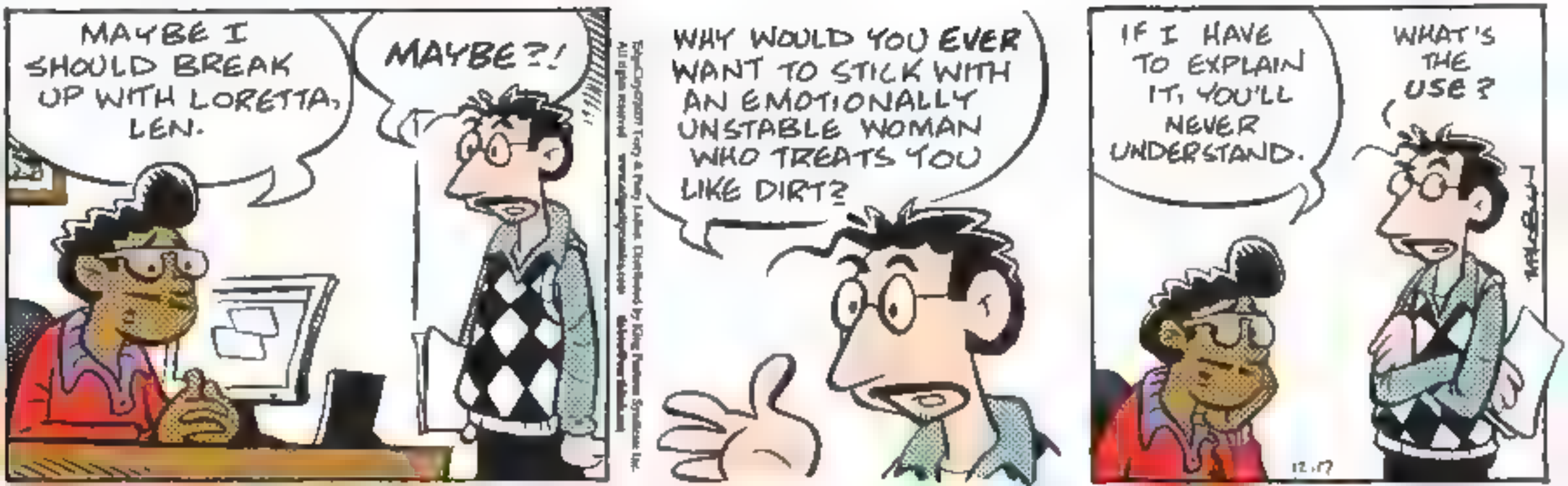
THEY'VE BEEN OUT PARTYING EVERY NIGHT AND TAKING EXOTIC VACATIONS AT THE DROP OF A HAT!
11-13


IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE WE'RE AWFULLY OLD AND BORING.
WE'RE NOT THAT OLD...

ALL RAJIV TALKS ABOUT THESE DAYS IS HIS AMAZING NEW GIRLFRIEND.
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT?
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, SHE SOUNDS A LITTLE NUTS. BUT IT'S NICE TO SEE HIM SO HAPPY.
12.14
MORNING, RAJIV! HOW'S LORETTA?
SOB!

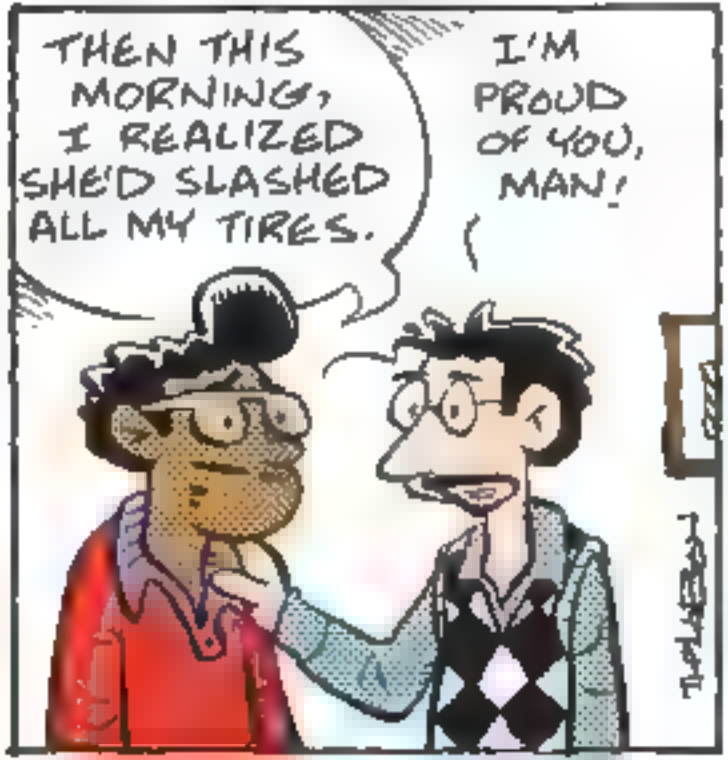

RAJIV, WHAT'S WRONG?
LORETTA AND I HAD A TERRIBLE FIGHT!
SHE'S TOO INTENSE, LEN. I'M NOT SURE I CAN HANDLE THIS SORT OF EMOTIONAL ROLLER-COASTER!
I'M THINKING OF BREAKING UP WITH HER.
JUST BECAUSE YOU HAD A FIGHT?
BECAUSE SHE ENDED UP BURNING ALL MY CLOTHES.
DONT WALK-- RUN!

TIPLABAN
I KNEW I SHOULD'VE REREAD THAT FLYER...
WINTER WONDERL

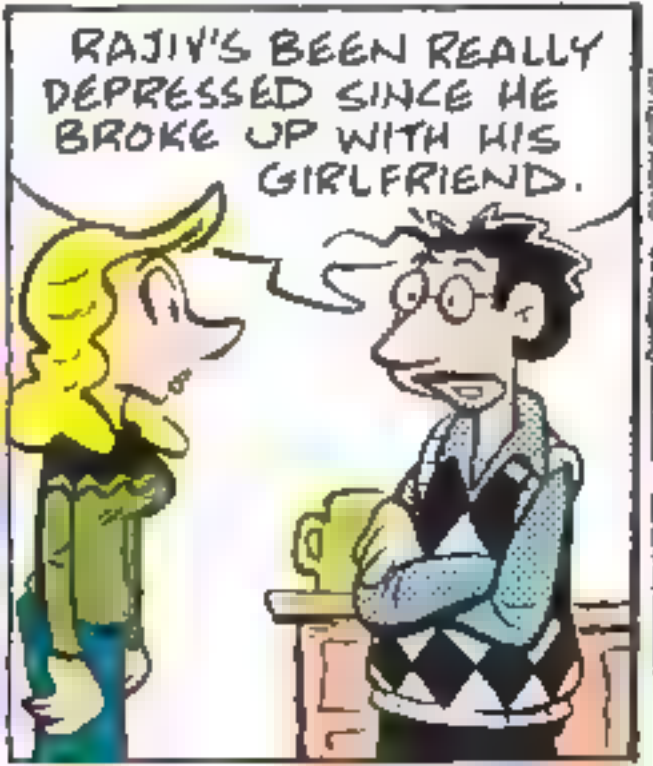

MAYBE I SHOULD BREAK UP WITH LORETTA, LEN.
MAYBE?!
WHY WOULD YOU EVER WANT TO STICK WITH AN EMOTIONALLY UNSTABLE WOMAN WHO TREATS YOU LIKE DIRT?
IF I HAVE TO EXPLAIN IT, YOU'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND.
WHAT'S THE USE?

WELL, LEN-- I DID IT. I BROKE UP WITH LORETTA LAST NIGHT.
WAS IT BAD?

SHE ACTUALLY TOOK IT PRETTY WELL. I EVEN STARTED TO THINK I WAS MAKING A MISTAKE.


THEN THIS MORNING, I REALIZED SHE'D SLASHED ALL MY TIRES.
I'M PROUD OF YOU, MAN!

SIGH!
STILL UPSET ABOUT LORETTA, HUH, RAJIV?
IT WOULDN'T HAVE LASTED. IT WASN'T A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP!
I KNOW. BUT SHE'LL BE AWFULLY HARD TO FORGET.
12-19
GIVE IT A LITTLE TIME.
THAT AND A DOCTOR WHO REMOVES TATTOOS...
TATTOOS
WPLaBan



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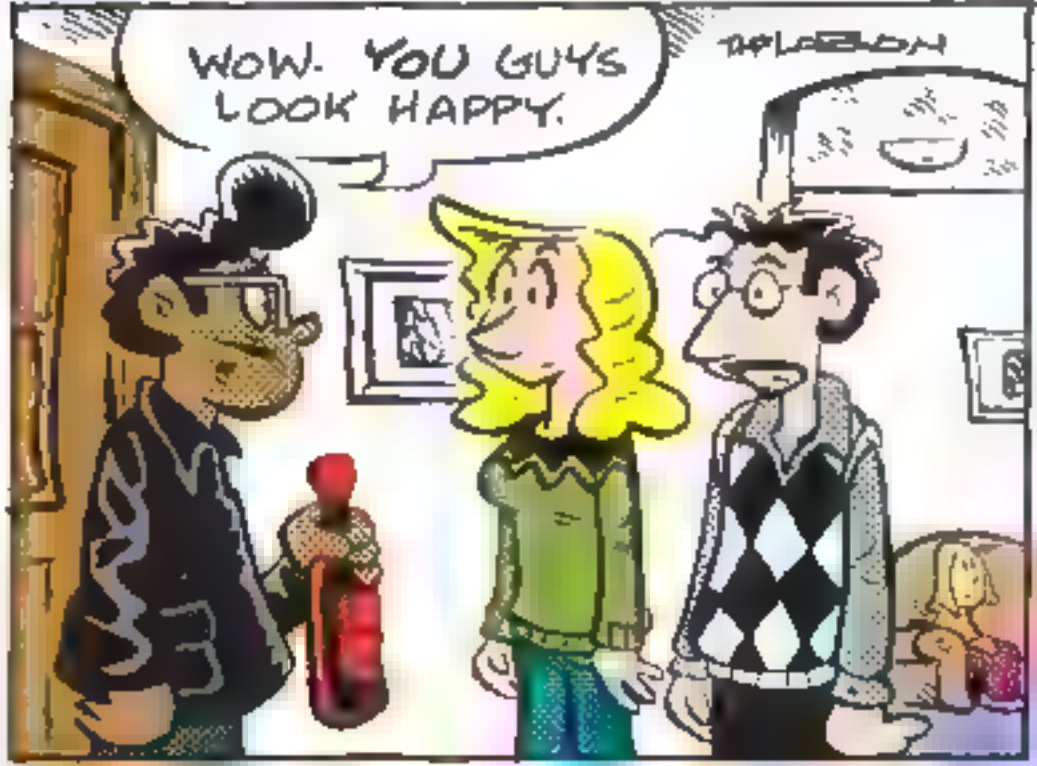
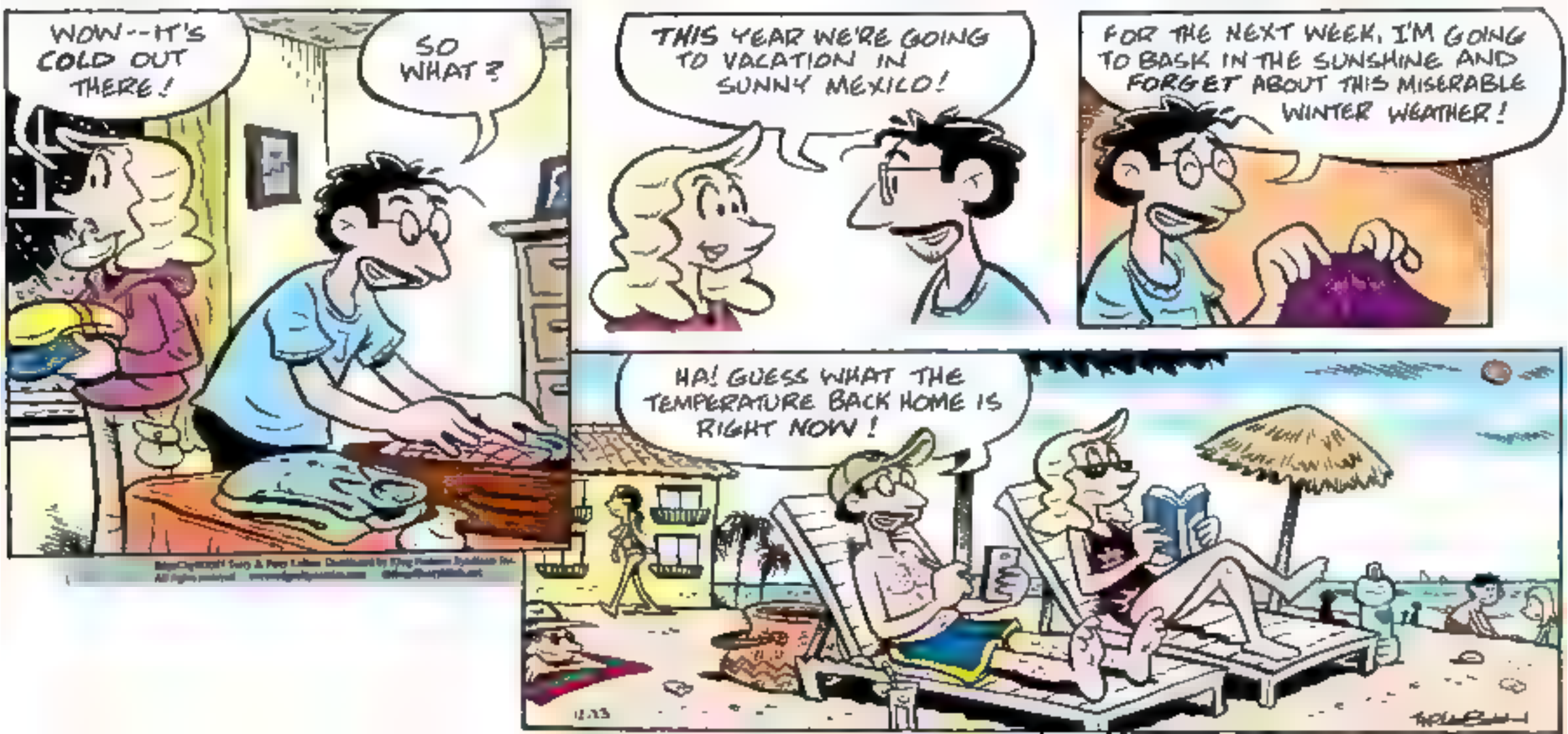


WE KNOW IT'S BEEN A TOUGH BREAKUP, RAJIV. BUT YOU'RE BETTER OFF WITHOUT LORETTA.
SIGH!! I KNOW.
YOU DON'T NEED AN UNSTABLE DRAMA QUEEN.
I HEAR YOU.
YOU DESERVE A NICE GIRL YOU CAN SETTLE DOWN WITH!
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.
LORETTA?! YOU'RE DOWN AT CASEY'S AND WANT TO TALK?
12.21
ZIP!

I HOPE RAJIV IS OK.
YEAH--HE SURE LEFT QUICKLY LAST NIGHT AFTER LORETTA CALLED.
I JUST HOPE SEEING HER AGAIN WILL FINALLY CONVINCE HIM THAT HE'S BETTER OFF WITHOUT HER.
12.22
IS RAJIV IN YET?
HE SAYS HE'LL CALL YOU AS SOON AS HE AND LORETTA GET BACK FROM BARBADOS.
DPLABON


WOW--IT'S COLD OUT THERE!
SO WHAT?
THIS YEAR WE'RE GOING TO VACATION IN SUNNY MEXICO!
FOR THE NEXT WEEK, I'M GOING TO BASK IN THE SUNSHINE AND FORGET ABOUT THIS MISERABLE WINTER WEATHER!
HA! GUESS WHAT THE TEMPERATURE BACK HOME IS RIGHT NOW!

HEY, LEN -- MY PARENTS INVITED US TO THEIR CONDO IN FLORIDA OVER WINTER BREAK.
THAT'S NICE OF THEM.
BUT IF WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A VACATION, LET'S TAKE A REAL ONE.
12.24
WHAT'S A REAL VACATION?
GOING TO A PLACE WHERE THE MEDIAN AGE ISN'T 85!

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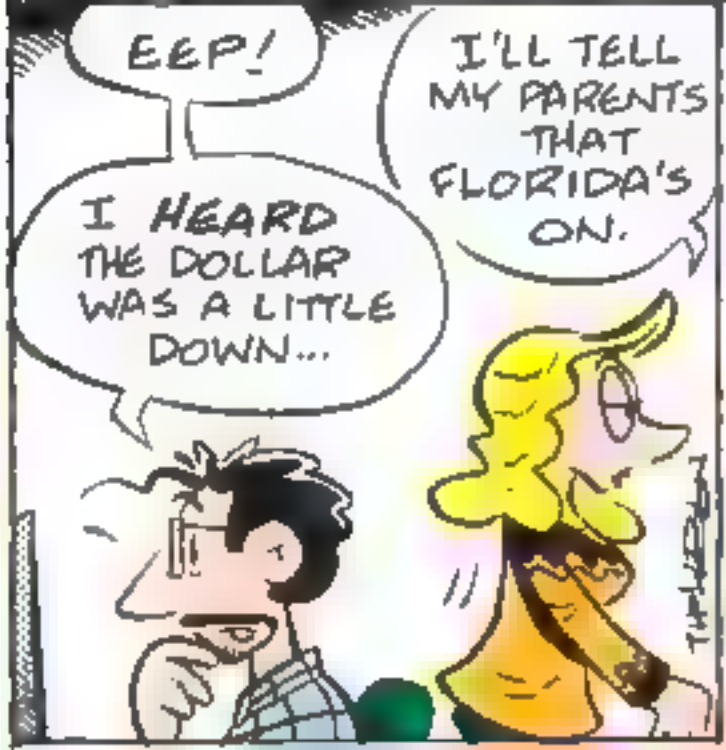
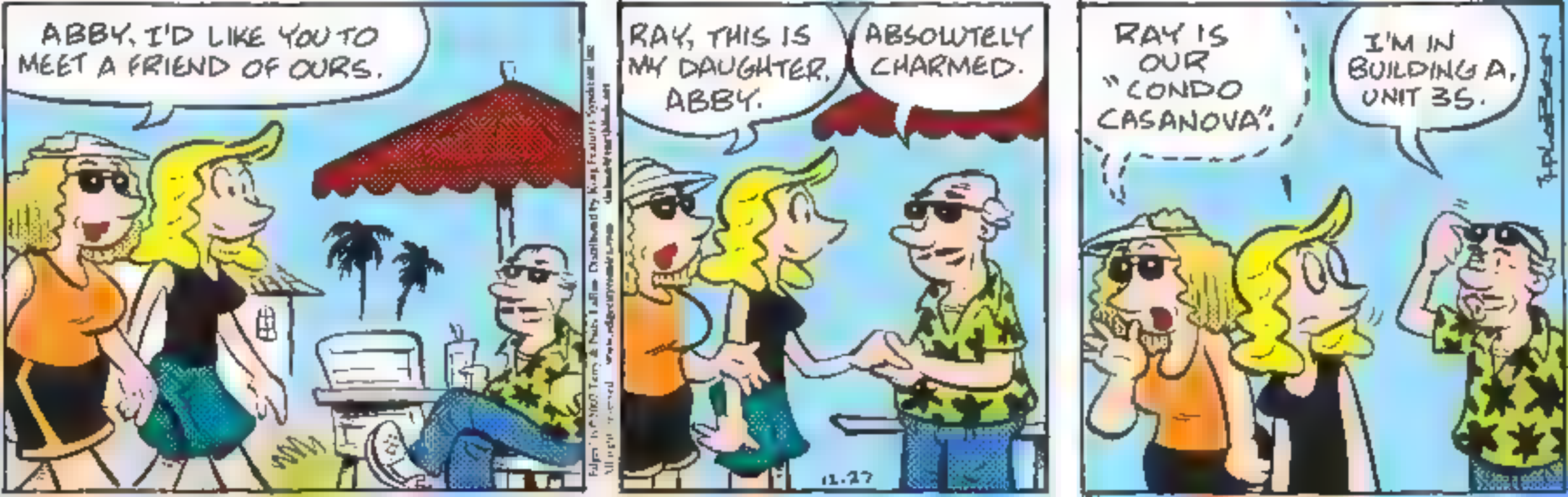
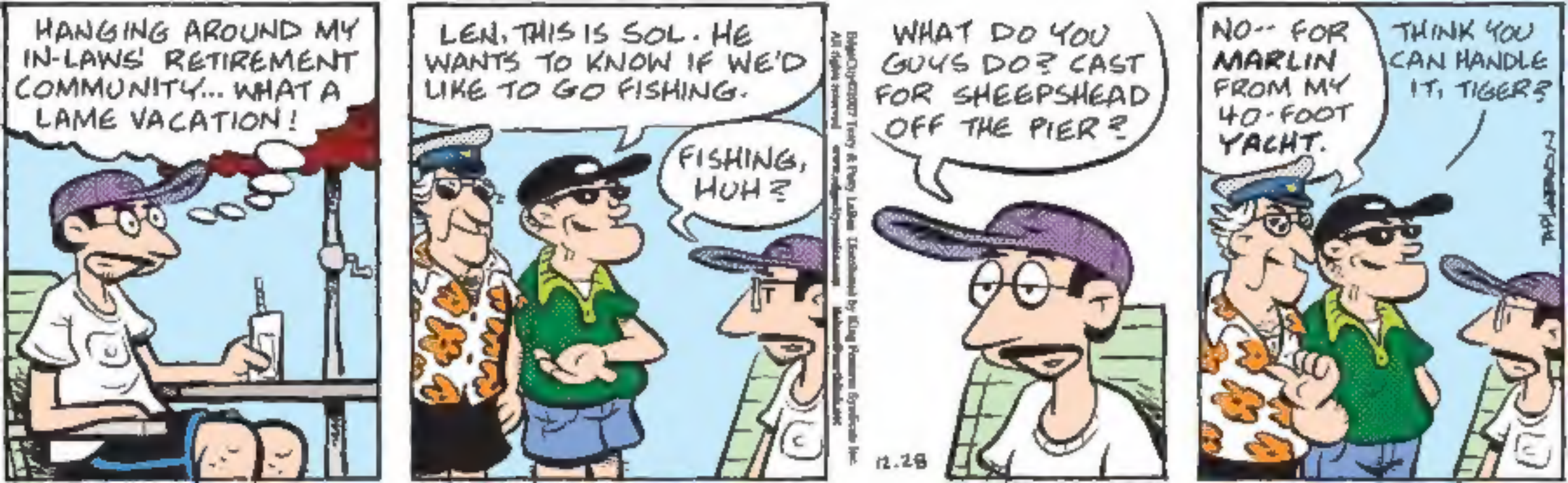
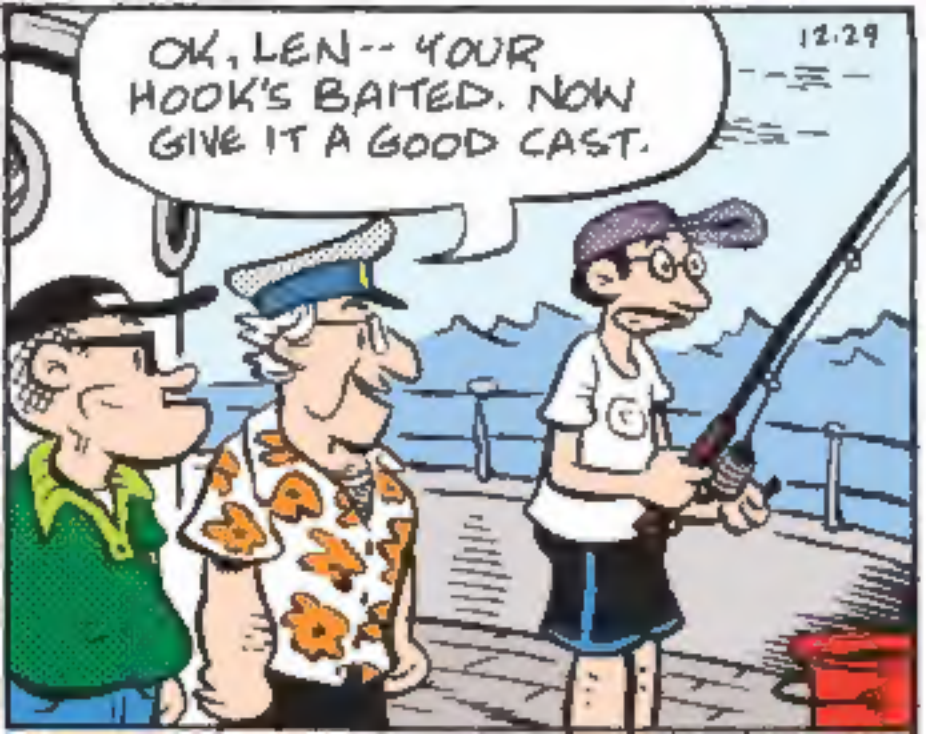


HI, YOU GUYS! WELCOME TO OUR CONDO COMMUNITY.
IT LOOKS NICE!
YEAH... NICE AND QUIET.
WHAT DO PEOPLE DO AROUND HERE BESIDES SIT BY THE POOL AND PLAY GOLF?
12.26
LOTS OF THINGS!
GANGWAY, WHIPPER-SNAPPERS!
ZIP!


ABBY, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET A FRIEND OF OURS.
RAY, THIS IS MY DAUGHTER, ABBY.
ABSOLUTELY CHARMED.
RAY IS OUR "CONDO CASANOVA".
I'M IN BUILDING A, UNIT 35.


HANGING AROUND MY IN-LAWS' RETIREMENT COMMUNITY... WHAT A LAME VACATION!
LEN, THIS IS SOL. HE WANTS TO KNOW IF WE'D LIKE TO GO FISHING.
FISHING, HUH?
WHAT DO YOU GUYS DO? CAST FOR SHEEPSHEAD OFF THE PIER?
12.28
NO-- FOR MARLIN FROM MY 40-FOOT YACHT.
THINK YOU CAN HANDLE IT, TIGER?



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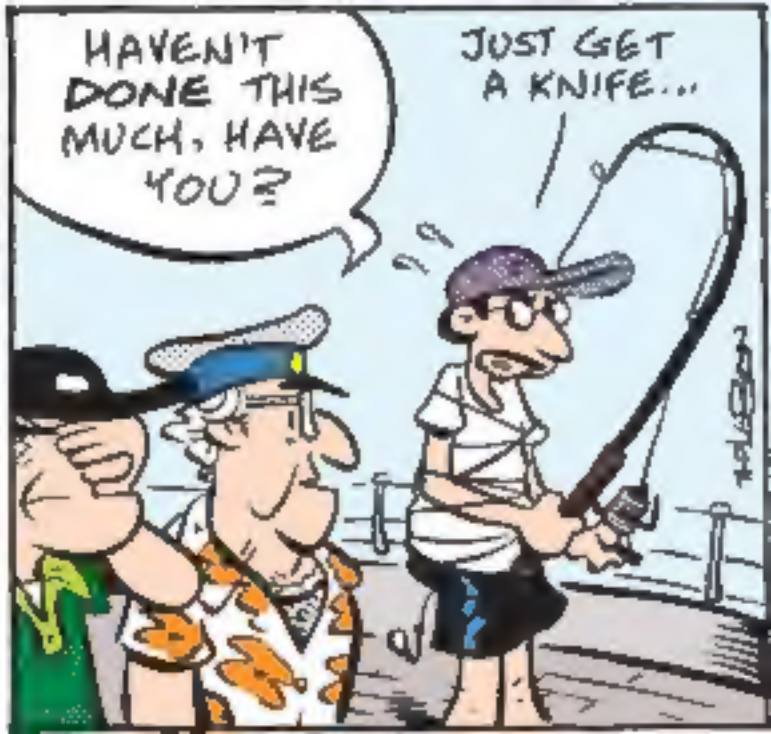
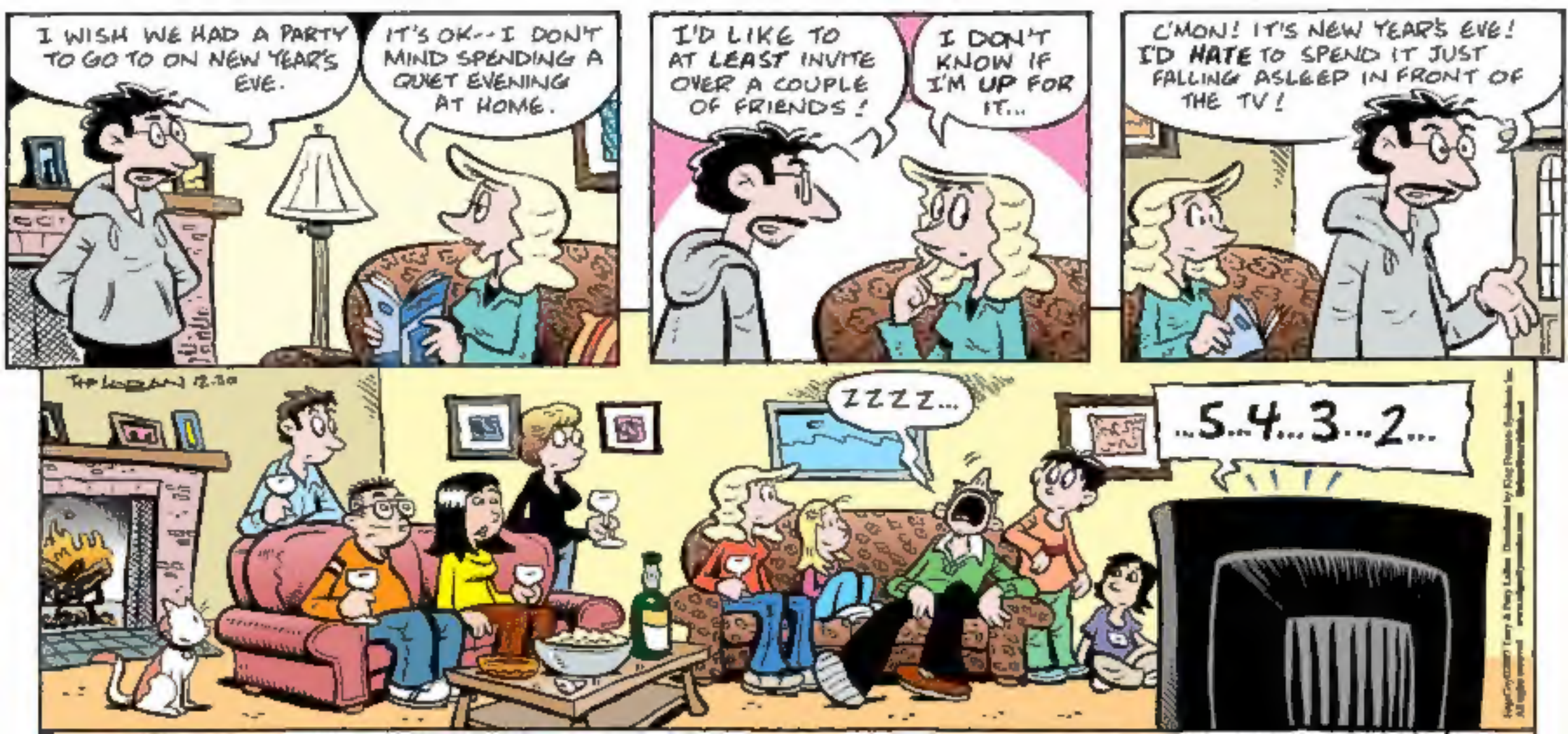
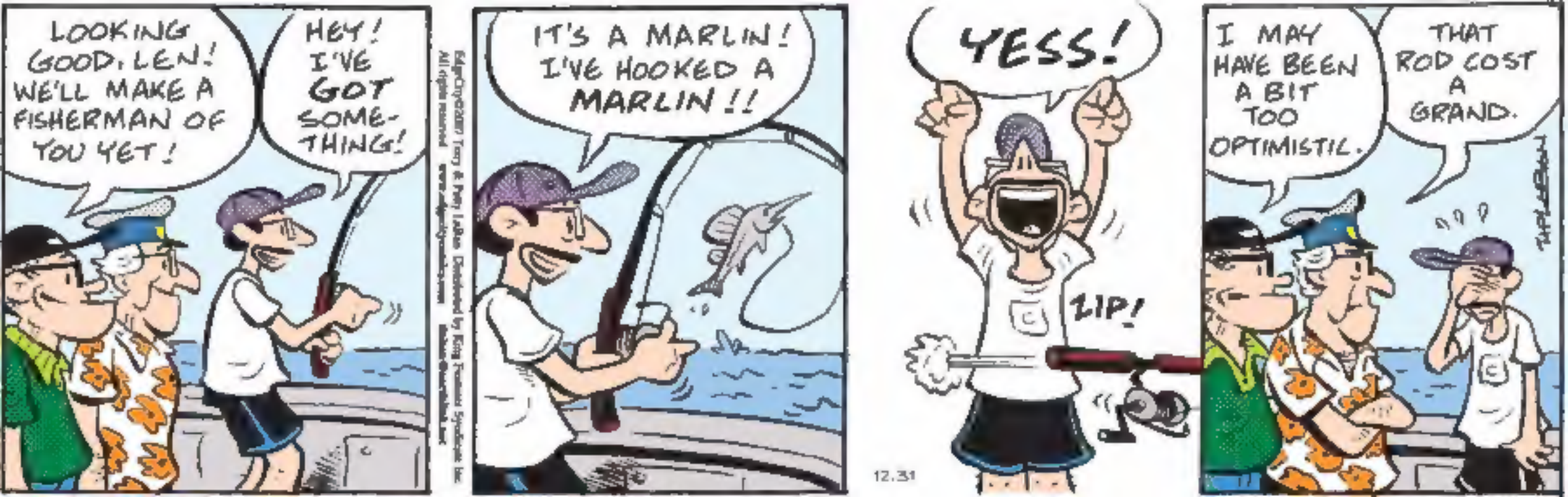



I WISH WE HAD A PARTY TO GO TO ON NEW YEAR'S EVE.
IT'S OK--I DON'T MIND SPENDING A QUIET EVENING AT HOME.
I'D LIKE TO AT LEAST INVITE OVER A COUPLE OF FRIENDS!
I DON'T KNOW IF I'M UP FOR IT...
C'MON! IT'S NEW YEAR'S EVE! I'D HATE TO SPEND IT JUST FALLING ASLEEP IN FRONT OF THE TV!
ZZZZ...
...5...4...3...2...


LOOKING GOOD, LEN! WE'LL MAKE A FISHERMAN OF YOU YET!
HEY! I'VE GOT SOME-THING!
IT'S A MARLIN! I'VE HOOKED A MARLIN!!
YESS!
ZIP!
I MAY HAVE BEEN A BIT TOO OPTIMISTIC.
THAT ROD COST A GRAND.
12.31